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BIRTHS.

On the 24th June, the wife of the Reverend E. THOMPSON, C.M.S., Taichow, of a daughter (Olive Marjory).

On the 20th July, at Kuling, the wife of WILSON HERBERT GELLER, London Mission, of a daughter (MURIEL AGNES).

On the 31st July, at 19, Quinsan Road, Hongkew, Shanghai, the wife of the Rev. J. W. CLINE, of a daughter.

On the 31st July, at 4, Cameron Villas, Peak, the wife of J. OWEN HUGHES, of a son

On the 31st July, at Swatow, the wife of C. E. A. SACHAU, I. M. Customs, Kowloon, of a son.

On the 3rd August, at No. 4, Elliot Crescent, Robinson Road, the wife of GEO. P. LAMMERT, of a son.

At Ashburn Lodge, Logan Road, Penang, the wife of A. OECHSLE, of a son.

MARRIAGE.

On the 25th July, at the Presbyterian Church, Penang, by the Rev. Stephen Walker, M.A., WILLIAM GORDON, Gedong Estate, Bagan Serai, to JESSIE, daughter of the late JAMES WOOD, both of Aberdeen.

DEATHS.

On the 25th July, at Broome, W. Australia, JAMES RONALD, late chief engineer O. S. S Co.'s s.s. *Sultan*.

On the 31st July, at 40, Range Road, Shanghai, JURGENS BAHR, aged 66 years.

At the General Hospital, Shanghai, WALTER PAULINI, aged 25 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CE. LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The American mail of the 7th ult. arrived, per *Hongkong Maru*, on the 4th inst., (28 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

The plague cases for the year number 1,382 Very few cases occurred during the past week, on two days of which blank returns were issued.

Mr. Balfour, replying to Mr. Norman in the House of Commons last week, said that Sir Ernest Satow had been telegraphically instructed that the Shanghai prisoners should not be surrendered.

Messrs. Armstrong & Co. and several other foreign shipbuilding yards, says the Japanese Press, have been requested by the Japanese Government to send in their estimates for the construction of a battleship of 16,000 tons.

The *China Times* states that the Manchurian and Siberian railways are to be opened this month for direct goods traffic between Dalny and European Russia, and the railway round the southern end of Lake Baikal is to be opened to traffic next year.

M. Boissonas, the new French Minister at Bangkok, was interviewed at Saigon about three weeks ago. He would not let out anything further than assurances that the coming treaty with Siam will give France greater rights and privileges than the treaty which was wrecked because it did not go far enough in that direction!

Our Kobe correspondent telegraphed under date 7th August:—The Messageries Maritimes steamship *Tonkin* caught fire yesterday in Kobe harbour. Ignition was due to some chlorate of potash in the cargo. The ship was beached at night. The forepart was destroyed, and the cabins amidships, twenty feet of deck, and the aft funnels were damaged.

A Tongku despatch to the *China Times* dated the 21st July says:—The signs of the occupation of foreign troops are gradually disappearing. Lately the German military have removed all the stores that they had on the ground in the Tongku Reach and which they commandeered from the Railway Company, adjoining Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Co.'s land. Then the fence and brick houses went, and now they are removing the wharf. Only one small house which they built remains, which they handed over to the Austrians, where they keep a few men.

The *N.-C. Daily News* publishes the following telegram, dated Tokyo, 30th July:—The Corean Government contemplates the repurchase of the lands privately acquired by the Russians at Yong-Ampho (at the mouth of the Yalu), and thereafter leasing these lands to the Russian holders, thus legalising the tenure that was originally obtained in defiance of the treaties. This display of Corea's tendency to condone the Russian aggressions has been the cause of comment in Japan, where the Russian Settlement at Yong-Ampho is regarded as a second Port Arthur in embryo.

The census of the Philippines, which has just been completed, gives the number of the Filipinos at 6,976,574, with about another 650,000 for the wild tribes. Some difficulty was experienced by enumerators in the provinces of Bulacan, Rizal, Laguna, Batangas and Albay, due to roving bands of ladrones, and in four instances the enumerators were held up.

From a Reuter's despatch to Bombay it appears that about the middle of last month it was semi-officially announced at Washington that the Conference at Port Arthur was "an important step in Russia's plans to arrange for the internal administration of Manchuria in a manner to allow of the opening of ports desired by the United States and Japan without the undue sacrifice of Russian interests."

The Imperial edict of the 30th ult. ordering Marshal Su to be handed over to the Board of Punishments to be tried for the crime of encouraging his troops in Kwangsi to oppress the people and for pocketing the pay of "dummy" troops, should, according to the law of the land, send the ex-Marshal into "the region of headless spirits," says the *N.-C. Daily News*. As the almighty dollar now-a-days reigns supreme, in Peking especially, there are still some hopes for Marshal Su, and his sentence may therefore be commuted to that of banishment to Chinese Turkestan or the Chinese Amur (Heilungchiang)—that, of course, is what his friends hope for the ex-Marshal.

There is once more a rumour in Peking to the effect that the Empress Dowager is thinking of abandoning the actual capital for the purpose of residing in Kaifeng, the capital of Hunan. She had already communicated this intention to her Councillors when the Court had its quarters there in the autumn of 1901 on its way back from Hsian to Pekin. It is reported that orders were recently given to the authorities in Kaifeng to have the palace repaired and maintained in such a condition as to enable the Empress Dowager to make it her residence at any moment. The *Courier de Tientsin* says that for this same reason the junks specially built in 1901, when the Court had to cross the Yellow River near Kaifeng, are being repaired, as also the road leading from the river to the palace.

H.E. Sir Ernest Satow, G.C.M.G., British Minister at Peking, arrived in Hongkong on the 6th inst. by the P. & O. s.s. *Sumatra*, which vessel he joined at Penang, after his visit to Rangoon. It had been hoped that he would be able to break his journey here, but unfortunately he is hastening on to Peking and sailed by the Sumtara on the 8th inst. He was met on his arrival on the 6th inst. by Sir John Keane, A. D. C. to H. E. the Governor, and Mr. E. A. Hewett, Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, and proceeded to Mountain Lodge, where he stayed on the 6th and 7th inst. In the course of the afternoon he met the Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce. Proceedings were private, but it is to be hoped that at least the gist of the discussion will shortly be made public, for it cannot fail to have been of wide interest, and the brevity of Sir Ernest Satow's stop here has prevented any such proceedings as occurred in Bombay.

THE "SUPAO" CASE.

(*Daily Press*, 4th August.)

The Press prosecutions in Shanghai have assumed an importance seemingly out of all proportion to the issues at stake, and one which can be only comprehended when we come to review the actual position of affairs in the Empire at large. For the last three years we have witnessed the curious phenomenon of a pretended government which, although supreme *de jure*, and able apparently to make its commands obeyed in the Provinces, has yet, when any subject of more than usual importance has come on the *tapis*, had to submit with, however, bad grace to the ruling of the Provincials. It was thus that when in the year 1900 Peking declared a war of extermination against the foreigner, the Yangtsze Viceroys not only refused to obey, but actually for a considerable time themselves assumed the government of the Empire; and themselves made conventions with the foreign Powers, the object of which was in the first instance to preserve peace, though in the long run they had for their aim the conservation of the Empire as an independent power, which had been seriously compromised by acts of the Government at Peking. The chief spirit in this independent movement was the late LIU KUNG-YI, the high-minded Governor at Nanking, who came forward as the champion of patriotism, and openly threw down the gage to the corrupt Regency who had by force seized from the feeble hands of the young Emperor the reins of the state. Notwithstanding that LIU KUNG-YI was in open and avowed hostility to the usurping power of the Regency, his patriotism was proof against every temptation to establish an *imperium in imperio*, nor was he by the most bitter of his enemies accused of any attempt at disaffection. He was, in fact, content to remain first subject of the throne, and no suspicion of infidelity even through this trying period ever rested upon him. But although openly no charges were, or could indeed be, made, the reactionary party at Peking, including the usurping Regency, did not cease from day to day to hatch plots against the old Viceroy, which the well-known purity of his life and motives alone permitted him to stem. The death of LIU, last winter, came as a relief to the reactionaries, who felt the most powerful and most patriotic of their opponents had at last passed away: this was at once exhibited by the evident desire of the Court to run counter to everything advised by the late Viceroy. None had been so resolute as he in opposing the degrading subserviency of the Empress Dowager and her satellites to Russia, and none had shown so clearly its necessary effects in bringing about the dissolution of the state. No sooner was the breath out of the old man than these degrading negotiations were renewed with double intensity, and Russia by threats, and still more by unblushing bribery, did not fail to drive home her political objects. During his lifetime LIU had seen the advantage of having the Press on his side, and more or less encouraged it in its independence. He was wise enough to see that without the sympathy of the people of China the task on which he had engaged, of saving Peking from itself, could not be accomplished, and anarchy or enlightenment seemed to him the only alternatives. It was to the credit of the Press that it on its side was willing to accept the lead of the Viceroy, and as long as he lived no complaint of the native papers, which considering the novelty of the situation was to the credit of all, was heard. With the new reaction, however, another position of affairs arose; the reactionary party at Peking at once commenced a war against the Press, and the Press deprived of the guiding hand of the old master descended to personalities, of which in his lifetime it had never been guilty. The principle complaint of the Press had been all through the unblushing manner in which the reactionary party, now alas! returned to power, had aided and abetted Russia in her partitionment of Manchuria; this was an opportunity not to be lost by the Russian agents in Peking. It is not likely that the Court would of itself have ventured to interfere with the practical liberty that had been tacitly accorded to the native Press within the Settlements, but a councillor was at hand. Nowhere in the world is the Press so gagged and persecuted as in Russia—the recent expulsion of the *Times* correspondent in Russia is but an instance of the hatred with which freedom of thought is regarded in the Empire of the Tsars—and here Russia found a congenial method to advance her own ends by expressing her sympathy with Peking under the lashes of the native Press, which had incautiously expressed a little more of the truth than was agreeable to the powers momentarily in the ascendant in Peking. Such, there is little doubt is the nature of the pressure now being exerted to get into the hands of the Government the indiscreet seven whose trial was interrupted last week in Shanghai. The curious part of the matter is that in the days of LIU KUNG-YI such expressions as have been charged as rebellion by Peking would have been considered as only constituting a very minor offence, at the most calling for friendly reprimand; there is no doubt that these are the opinions universally held by those best qualified to judge in China, and have the sanction of the entire people. In such circumstances, and seeing that but the other day we ourselves were engaged with LIU in what, according to the views of Peking was an act of aggravated rebellion, we have every right and title to enquire in how far the reactionary party at Peking is entitled to be looked upon as the Government of China. Certainly to hand over the prisoners to the tender mercies of such a Court, would be to invite a repetition of the events of three years ago, and to increase vastly the difficulties of the moment in the very peculiar position in which that Court stands towards Russia.

(*Daily Press*, 8th August.)

A telegram to the *North-China Daily News* dated Peking, 1st August, states that "SHEN KE-WEI, journalist and reformer, was beheaded at Peking on the 31st July." This SHEN, it appears from a paragraph appearing in another column of our Shanghai contemporary, acted as northern correspondent for a couple of Japanese newspapers, and was recently arrested in Peking by the gendarmerie and handed to the Board of Punishments for sentence, on the charge of having been concerned in the abortive attempt of the "Fuyu" society at Hankow in the autumn of 1900. It is further stated, from native sources, that SHEN was executed without a trial. Thus the crusade against the native Press is being prosecuted with vigour and ruthlessness. The *Universal Gazette* makes the interesting statement that it is reported that Viceroy WEI KUANG-TAO of Nanking has telegraphed to YUAN, Taotai of Shanghai, to be on the look-out for the men accused of sedition in the *Supao* case, "as there are fears that they may seek to escape from Shanghai if orders from Peking be received by the Foreign Consuls to turn these men over to the Chinese authorities for decapitation." In connection with this it is indeed satisfactory to read in REUTER's telegram, published this morning, that Sir ERNEST SATOW has been telegraphically instructed that the Shanghai prisoners are not to be surrendered. It is clear that the Chinese Government has over-reached itself. The campaign against the native journalists has been carried on with too great brutality, and the consequence is that some of the intended victims are likely to escape punishment. We wrote recently, explaining how with the death of LIU KUNG-YI the reactionary party summoned up courage to commence war against the native Press, to which the old Viceroy had always given no small measure of encouragement. The campaign has become brisk. The arrests in Peking have very soon resulted in one execution; there is no doubt whatever what would have happened to the *Supao* "seditionmongers," had they been handed over, as the consular body at Shanghai apparently contemplated handing them over, to the Chinese Government. Fortunately this has been averted. Now we do not say that the *Supao* prisoners, or some of them at least, were not guilty of seditious language; the evidence given in the Mixed Court, Shanghai, was sufficient to show that some very violent anti-dynastic articles were published. But, of whatever offence the arrested men may have been guilty, it was clear that they would not, if surrendered to China, have obtained even the semblance of a fair trial. The Chinese Government's object was to get hold of them, because they were dangerous reformers, and to execute them summarily. It has never been a British custom to hand over political prisoners to the vengeance of their governments, and it would have been a disaster had this been done at Shanghai. As we wrote the other day, to do so would be to invite a repetition of the events of 1900. And we must furthermore consider to what extent we should look on the reactionaries at Peking as the lawful Government of China. We have encouraged and sheltered the reformers. Can we now, even if they abuse their privileges, join in betraying them to those who are seeking their death? The British Government's answer to this happily is a negative, and the decision must be applauded by all. The *Supao* prisoners remain on the hands of Shanghai, and the problem of their disposal remains difficult. Perhaps the best policy would be to exhort them to migrate elsewhither, for the sake of their health. Being mostly men of education they should be able to prosper somewhere outside the domains of China.

THE NEW WATERWORKS ORDINANCE.

(*Daily Press*, 3rd August.)

The debate in the Legislative Council on Friday last on the subject of the new Waterworks Consolidation Ordinance was notable for the curious ignorance of procedure shown by various members—mostly, it is to be noted, officials. This rather tended to obscure the points at issue and to lessen the value, while adding to the length, of the discussion, which was really one of great importance. The "objects and reasons" of the Bill sufficiently explain what alterations are proposed in the system of water-service in this City. We need not go back to the familiar story how the serious water-famine of 1902 led to the introduction, during the acting rule in Hongkong of Major-General GASCOIGNE, of an ordinance (known as the Waterworks Consolidation Ordinance), whereby practically all tenement houses

were to be disconnected from the public mains and the supply of water for these houses was to be drawn from public fountains to be erected. As is well-known, a Chinese petition, largely and influentially signed, but got up in what it is hardly possible not to regard as a hole-and-corner way, went home, and apparently so weighed with the Secretary of State for the Colonies that he would not allow the ordinance to pass. The Bill which was read for the first time on Friday is an attempt to meet the objections brought against the 1902 ordinance. The method adopted is the introduction of "rider-mains" for practically the whole of the Chinese portion of the Colony—which means, we presume, Victoria below the limits of the so-called European reservation area, though the Governor in Council has power to define any area within which the rider-main system may be introduced. Outside such areas all water-services will be provided with meters. The cost of constructing the rider-mains and making the necessary alterations is to be charged against the owners of the various tenements—leading, we fear, to a reimbursement of themselves by the owners out of the pockets of the tenants. When these rider-mains have been introduced, it is hoped that in periods of scarcity the intermittent supply system need only be put in force in the rider-main districts, the metered houses having a constant supply and the principal mains being plentifully charged with water in event of outbreaks of fire.

The prevention of waste is stated to be the chief object aimed at by the present Bill, as it was in that of 1902; and this point the Colonial Secretary particularly dwelt on in his speech on Friday. The Hon. F. H. MAY described the rider-main system as a system of huge meters for each block of buildings. We must confess that we do not quite see the justice of the comparison, for this reason. Rider-mains, as defined in the new Bill, are "subsidiary mains to which all services to the houses near which they are laid will be connected, and, *as they can be shut off by means of valves from the principal mains*, the supply of water to the houses can be restricted to any extent considered necessary without shutting off the water from the City generally, as has to be done at present." Now in times of plenty or of even moderately abundant supply of water, we take it, the service to the rider-mains will be perfectly uncontrolled (this seems plain from what we have quoted), so that there will be no restriction at all on waste in such periods. The metered houses, however, will be punished for such waste, if it should occur, in times either of abundance or of scarcity. Of course, when a water-famine threatens, the supply to the rider-mains *can* be restricted to any extent, as the Bill's "objects and reasons" claim. But this is by no means the same as metering, for it does not punish, as metering does, continual careless waste during times of abundant or comparatively full supply; and it must be remembered that it is not only waste at periods of famine which has to be fought against.

It seems that we must resign ourselves to the adoption of rider-mains, the Secretary of State for the Colonies having practically vetoed the Bill of last year, which struck us in common, we believe, with the mass of European residents as a measure very adequately meeting the case. We are assured by the Government, or rather by the bulk of the Government, that the present measure is every whit as useful in achieving the great object—the prevention of waste of water. We fear that we cannot quite believe this. If the authorities are very prompt in applying the intermittent system to the rider-mains when water ceases to be superabundant, no doubt a great saving will be effected. But there is the waste all the rest of the year to contend with, and it is not possible to disregard this. When once the rains have ended and the reservoirs have no means of again reaching their maximum, all waste is reprehensible. Certainly it should not be punished only in the case of the metered householder and pardoned in the case of the prodigal native. Yet we do not see any proposal to punish the latter except by putting him, with his whole block, on the intermittent system when a water famine arises.

A SANITARY EXPERIMENT.

(*Daily Press*, 4th August.)

It was a very interesting ceremony on Monday afternoon when H E. the Governor formally handed back to the care of the Sanitary Board the block of tenement houses which some three months ago were given over to him in order that he might make the experiment whether he could get the Chinese to help themselves and assist in sanitary measures. It was evident from the words uttered on Monday that no little measure of success was attained, and that the effect produced on the 7,700 tenement dwellers in Second and Third Streets was one which cannot fail to be beneficial, provided that it become duly published abroad. Sir HENRY BLAKE spoke of the experiment as showing that the Chinese people are not apathetic and that they are ready to help when it is explained to them that their help is necessary in carrying out the ordinary work of sanitation for the people. It must of course be remembered that in the present experiment the Chinese were doubtless spurred on by the idea that they were working in co-operation with His Excellency and that the glamour of the Sanitary Board is not likely to be so great. Still we do not in any way wish to depreciate Chinese public spirit in Hongkong, for it has proved itself time after time. We shall look forward to a continuance of the effort made this year, in the hope that scarcely less enthusiasm will be shown by the Chinese who worked so well in the past plague season. On the part of the Sanitary Board what is demanded is as much as possible of that sympathy which was shown to the inhabitants of Second and Third Streets in the recent experiment. Not all the favouring circumstances can be present another time, but there is no reason why the most essential should not. The encouragement and facilities for keeping clean the bed-boards and other furniture and the provisions of a certain number of baths are not beyond the power of the Sanitary Board. The organisation of a street *kaifong*, or committee, seems to have been the happiest feature of the late experiment. Whether this system could be extended with advantage, we do not know. It is one which peculiarly suits the Chinese, and it enables the authorities to use the more enlightened men to instruct the more ignorant. Ignorance on the side of the natives and too little sympathy on that of the authorities are the chief obstacles in the way of successful co-operation with a view to fighting plague. The authorities have lately made great efforts to mitigate the hardships involved by their crusades against disease and dirt. There are hopes that the densest clouds of ignorance around the poor natives may gradually be dissipated by seeking the aid of their better-instructed countrymen.

RESERVATION AND HEALTH.

(*Daily Press*, 5th August.)

One of the enclosures among the "papers relating to the investigation of malaria," etc., which we noticed recently in this column, is a summary of the researches of Drs. STEPHENS and CHRISTOPHERS into native malaria and malarial prophylaxis. We quoted the other day what these experts said about the presence of malaria in native children. We wish here to draw attention to a paragraph in the summary following on that about native children. The two doctors state that the condition of extreme unhealthiness (for Europeans) found, *par excellence*, in West Africa is not determined by climate. The reason is largely to be found in the conditions under which Europeans at present live in Africa. "Even on general grounds it would be "well to avoid native huts and hovels. ". . . When, however, we realise that "these huts are veritable hotbeds of malaria, "it is evident that the very first sanitary "law for Europeans in Africa is to avoid "their neighbourhood. It is, however, a "striking, but most deplorable, feature "that in Africa hardly ever do we find an "European bungalow or dwelling-place built "with this end in view." A little later Drs. STEPHENS and CHRISTOPHERS say: "As a "preliminary step to all other prophylatic "measures, and as one likely more than "any other to minimise Europe in malaria, "we therefore advocate 'Segregation from "the Native.'"

Our object in quoting the above was not to compare the malaria of Hongkong with that of the West coast of Africa, but to show what are admitted to be some grave dangers arising from the too close proximity of Europeans and natives. It is not only malaria which can be conveyed from native dwellings to European houses; it is not only mosquitoes which convey horrible diseases, but fleas, bugs, etc., as well. Are we then, as the Colony continues to expand, to see the future European residents forced to live with the native at their door, ready to infect them and their wives and children with deadly diseases to which they need never have been exposed but for the criminal apathy of past Governments? In other words, is Hongkong, and more particularly that part of it which is on the mainland, to be converted into a pestilential collection of blocks and hovels, where the European has no choice but to drag on his existence amid the squalors of an intimate native environment? We venture to prophesy that the whole question of Kowloon's future will depend on the provision or not of an adequate European quarter where those coming out from home will be able to live in health and peace.

Mr. T. S. Takayanagi, acting manager of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, announces that telegraphic information has been received that the Company's s.s. *Kawachi Maru*, which left Hongkong on the 27th June last for London and ports, had an outbreak of fire occurring at sea in No. 4 hold, and she put in at Messina, from which port she was to have sailed on the 1st inst.

A despatch dated Simla, July 23, says:—"The plague is now almost entirely confined to the Bombay Presidency and Mysore, which had, respectively, 1,817 and 270 deaths out of a total of 2,284 recorded in all India last week. Assam is now completely clear. the Punjab returns only 55 deaths, Bengal 29, the United Provinces one, Central India 21, Hyderabad twelve, and Coorg five." Another message of the same date says:—"The numbers under famine relief in the Central Provinces have fallen to 22,414.

THE CUBICLE QUESTION.

(*Daily Press* 1st August.)

It has become perfectly plain that the Section in the new Ordinance requiring the abolition of cubicles in Chinese dwellings in this Colony is at the present moment unworkable, and we welcome the decision of the Sanitary Board, on the motion of Mr. POLLOCK, appointing a sub-committee to consider and report to the Board what amendments appear to be desirable in the new Ordinance. While it is admitted that the Ordinance rightly aims at the abolition of conditions which tend to promote the dissemination of disease, it is at the same time perfectly evident that if the crusade against cubicles, already begun, is to be drastically prosecuted, a most serious blow will be struck at the commercial prosperity of the Colony. As Mr. LAU CHU PAK pointed out in the minute he attached to the motion on the agenda, the rentals now charged by Chinese property-owners are already very high, and if by the operation of the Ordinance one family is compelled to occupy the space now accommodating three and often four families, the rent will be far beyond their means. Consider how many Chinese families in the Colony are living on less than $25 a month. How many flats in Hongkong could be rented at that figure, we wonder? Mr. LAU CHU PAK says the rent of such flats or floors ranges from $8 per month in the poorest districts to $75 per month in the busiest parts of the city. It is clear, therefore, that unless there is a further enormous rise in wages, as a consequence of the law requiring the abolition of cubicles, it will be impossible for four-fifths of the Chinese to remain in the Colony, and we need hardly say that any substantial increase in the cost of labour would vitally affect the interests of the port. We trust that the Committee appointed will upon a due consideration of the problem in all its bearings be able to make some recommendations which will obviate or at least mitigate these fell consequences without an undue sacrifice of those hygienic principles which the Colony from the public health point of view cannot afford to disregard.

WUCHOW'S TRADE IN 1902.

(*Daily Press*, 6th August.)

The report on the trade of Wuchow for 1902 is written by Mr. Acting-Consul H. H. Fox, who has made some changes from previous reports, giving the values in Haikwan taels, not in sterling, as well as omitting the usual tables of imports and exports, showing quantities and sterling values in the year under review and the year preceding, and giving comparative tables of imports and exports with quantities only, extending over the five years the port has been open to trade. The figures refer only to trade in foreign bottoms. The port's gross trade amounted in value to Hk. Tls. 6,601,868, made up as follows:—Foreign imports, Hk. Tls. 3,353,005; native imports, Hk. Tls 162,202; native exports, Hk. Tls. 3,086,661. The figures show a falling off from those of 1901, when the total was Hk. Tls. 7,496,243 and are only slightly larger than the Hk Tls, 6,539,327 of 1900, when the tael was 3s. 1¼d. as against the 2s. 7 1/5d. of 1902. This falling off, Mr. Fox explains, was entirely due to imports, which decreased over 37 per cent.; exports, on the other hand, increased just 40 per cent. As reasons for the fall in imports he gives the following:—1. The fall in exchange and consequent rise in the price of piece-goods in Hongkong. 2. The disturbed state of the province, always one of the poorest in China. 3. The failure of the opium crop in Kweichau and Yunnan, native opium being the medium of exchange with those regions. 4. Floods in the summer of 1902, which devastated the crops in the low-lying districts, especially the fields of sugar-cane in the neighbourhood of Nanning. Mr. Fox adds:—"It is an eloquent testimony to the vitality of the West River trade that in spite of this accumulation of disasters, in spite of the fact that Wuchow stands at the gate of a bankrupt province, the decrease in the import trade should not have been even greater and that the export trade should even show a marked improvement." The lowness of exchange of course stimulated exports, and the natural expansion of trade was not retarded to the same extent by the disturbed state of the country as in the case of imports, the brigands having a particular inclination for the pillage and destruction of foreign goods.

With regard to the port's prospects, Mr. Fox expresses himself hopefully. Careful enquiries, he says, go to show that its trade has by no means reached its highest point. There are still vast regions in Kweichau and Yunnan which naturally derive their supplies through the West River, where foreign goods are practically unknown. As to the proposed Pakhoi-Nanning railway, Mr. Fox thinks it highly probable that the West River route with its cheap water-carriage and its direct communication with Hongkong will be able to hold its own against the quicker but dearer overland line with its transhipment at a small coast port. In Kwangsi great riches await development. There must be a commercial future, says Mr. Fox, before a country which can produce silk, sugar, coal, timber, oils, paper, rhea-fibre, gold, tin, and antimony. But it is necessary that the officials and gentry shall cease to repel foreign capital and skill and that the native merchants shall cease to adulterate their goods for the European market.

Hongkong's share in the trade of Wuchow amounted in 1902 to no less than 93 per cent. In the tables "foreign" trade means trade with Hongkong, whereas "native" trade means principally trade with Canton and Samshui. Mr. Fox notes a general tendency, strongly marked among the well-to-do Wuchow natives, to substitute articles of foreign manufacture for native whenever the price of the former permits. Cigarettes and cigars, condensed milk, coffee, biscuits, razors, scissors, soaps, scents, enamelled teapots and basins, etc., are thus coming into general use. Mr. Fox gives some serviceable hints as to certain articles.

The increase in exports is partly due to extension of the outward transit pass system and the consequent change from junk to the safer and faster steamer carriage. A great advance was made in the export of cattle. In 1901 523 head of cattle exported to Hongkong appeared for the first time in the Wuchow returns. In 1902 the figures increased to 7,442 head, valued at Hk. Tls. 123,380. The demands of the Philippines promise a still greater development. The provincial authorities for some reason view the new departure with disfavour, but the Kwangsi valleys afford excellent pasturage and the supply should the practically unlimited.

There are some points in Mr. Fox's report which do not read very well for Britons. One is the doubtful status of some "British" firms at Wuchow, which really consist of Hongkong or Canton Chinese trading under a British name. There are ten actually British firms, all represented by native agents; Mr. Fox adding "It is, I think, matter for regret that they do not see their way to send a young Englishman here to push their interests." Another remarkable fact is that though 93 per cent. of the total trade of Wuchow is with Hongkong, not a single steamer on the line flies the British flag. "It is to be hoped," Mr. Fox says, "that the British companies in Hongkong, who withdrew their steamers from the line two years ago, will see their way to reopen this branch before the direct carrying trade passes entirely into alien hands." A reference to the Chairman's speech at the meeting of the Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steam-boat Co. on Tuesday is interesting in this connection. The question, Mr. DICKSON told that meeting, of taking up again the Hongkong-West River trade is under consideration. We trust that the Company will read Mr. Fox's remarks and be encouraged thereby.

CHINA AND OTHER TEAS.

(*Daily Press*, 1st August.)

We quoted a few days ago a paragraph remarking on the fact that in the reports of certain recognised London tea merchants China teas were scarcely mentioned, so parlous has the state of this trade become. The tea reports from Australia bear similar mournful testimony. The first shipments of China tea to Melbourne this season amounted to only 1,954 packages. "Years ago," says one of the tea circulars, "the first steamer "used to bring 50,000 to 60,000 packages, "but the demand for China tea has given "place to that for Indian and Ceylon teas." In *Boyd's Commercial Guide* it is remarked that the China tea statistics show plainly that unless active measures be immediately taken the one staple industry of China will be catalogued among the things of the past. Several reasons are advanced to account for the enormous falling-off in the exports of this once eagerly-sought-for product, the prime reason being the live competition of tea from Assam, Ceylon, Japan, and Java. The supremacy in the world's markets of tea from the two first-named countries is in the main due to judicious advertising and the employment of up-to-date machinery in the manipulation and preparation of the leaf. A recent retrospect of the gradual decline of the industry has been cleverly sketched by an expert, from which it appears that 30 years ago the exports of tea from China aggregated 141,000,000 lbs. From that time it has gradually diminished, until it is estimated that the figures of the present year will darely reach 12,000,000 lbs. Prices, too, during the last 20 years have fallen nearly 50 per cent. It is stated that at last a really live effort is being attempted to apply remedies, but we fail to note any signs of it. We note, by the way, that the Ceylon planters have as yet failed to surmount the difficulties of producing a tea corresponding to the Formosa oolongs, for which there is a very valuable market in North America. One of the planters at a meeting of the Association a few months ago declared that he did not believe that Ceylon would ever be able to produce the Formosa oolong; but that it could copy the inferior Foochow variety known as "suey kuts." Some years ago he imported into Ceylon, to his after regret, some seed from the Formosa trees, and the resulting trees reverted to the worst China type. This, however, is not accepted as the last word of the subject, and there appears to be some scheme in hand to get expert Chinaman from Formosa to make the experiment.

AUSTRALIA'S COLOUR LINE.

(*Daily Press*, 7th July.)

Sir EDMUND BARTON'S reply to a deputation asking for a repeal of the legislation against coloured labour in Australia is not one which is likely to raise him in general estimation as a statesman, though it may, as it was no doubt intended to, increase his popularity in Australia. It is a familiar fact that prohibition in the great Southern continent keeps out mainly two different classes of people, one British Indians and the other Japanese and Chinese. Now Sir EDMUND BARTON told the deputation that it was useless to ask for a repeal of the prohibitory laws until prohibition has been tried and that he personally would prefer even foreign white labour to coloured labour. A stronger declaration of the "colour line" policy could not well be made. The Australian Premier, in fact, pronounced against British subjects, citizens of the same empire as the Australians themselves, while admitting that he would rather see aliens, as long as they had white skins, in Australia. Such an attitude can only strike us as retrograde, in view of the tendency now exhibited toward solidification of the empire. But this attitude is not, of course, a new or unfamiliar one in Australia. In the most recent work on Australia, that of Mr. P. F. ROWLAND, we read:—"The existence of the teeming rice-"fed millions of India and China is the "gravest danger that threatens progressive "nations; and it is unavailing to shut out "the cheap labourer (as even free-traders in "Australia are willing to do) if we admit the "commodities produced by his labour." The remedy, in the eyes of such thinkers, is to shut out equally the labourer and his products, in fact to create an absolutely "white Australia." But can Australia afford it? She has not the population yet, nor can have it for many years to come. And can she justly claim to be allowed to embarrass the policy of the whole empire by her discrimination not only against our allies, like the Japanese, but also against our fellow-subjects in India?

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on the 31st ult. in the Council Chamber.

Present:—

His EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, Sir HENRY A. BLAKE, G.C.M.G.

His EXCELLENCY Sir W. GASCOIGNE, K.C.M.G. (Commanding the Troops).

Hon. F. H. MAY, C.M.G. (Colonial Secretary).

Hon. Sir HENRY SPENCER BERKELEY, KT. (Attorney-General).

Hon. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. Commander R. M. RUMSEY, R.N., I.S.O. (Harbour Master).

Hon. W. CHATHAM (Director of Public Works).

Hon. Dr. J. M. ATKINSON (Principal Civil Medical Officer).

Hon. Sir C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.

Hon. C. W. DICKSON.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI, C.M.G.

Hon. WEI A YUK.

Hon. R. SHEWAN.

Hon. GERSHOM STEWART.

Mr. R. F. JOHNSTON (Acting Clerk of Councils).

FINANCIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table Financial Minutes (Nos. 29 to 31) and moved that they be referred to the Finance Committee.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was adopted.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the Report of the Finance Committee (No. 6) and moved its adoption.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

PAPERS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the report of the Director of Public Works for 1902 and correspondence respecting the proposal to remove the Naval Yard.

THE NEW POST OFFICE.

The DIRECTOR of PUBLIC WORKS laid on the table the following minutes of the Public Works Committee:—

Competitive Designs for Post Office, Treasury, &c.—The designs, three in number, were closely scrutinised and, after some discussion as to the best method of procedure, it was unanimously agreed that a comparative statement should first be drawn up, showing, in parallel columns, the requirements set forth in the conditions of competition and the extent to which these were fulfilled by the several designs and that this statement should be forwarded to the Heads of Departments to be housed in the new building with a request that they would criticise the designs and state which they considered best in point of arrangement as regarded their various departments.

At a meeting held on 13th July the replies to the request of the Committee for criticism of the designs submitted, which had been received from the various Heads of Departments concerned, were read. The designs were again closely examined, especially with regard to the Post Office arrangements, the access to the offices generally, and some of the principal matters of arrangement affecting the Departments to be accommodated. Members having expressed themselves in favour of the design numbered 2, the description of the proposed building which accompanied that design was read. Sir C. P. Chater then moved that the design numbered 2 be accepted. Mr. Shewan seconded. Carried unanimously. It was unanimously agreed that the design numbered 1 be awarded the further premium of $1,500 provided under the conditions of competition. The Chairman having asked whether there was any other matter relative to the proposed building which members desired to have laid there before the Government, Mr. Shewan moved that, in view of the great value of the property; the fact that the building is designed to take a fourth storey; and the probability that additional accommodation for some of the Departments to be housed will be required at no very distant date; the building should, in the first place, be constructed four storeys in height. Mr. Dickson seconded. It was pointed out by Sir C. P. Chater and Mr. Shewan that the building would be more in harmony with those adjacent to it if it were made four storeys high. The motion was agreed to unanimously.

CONVICT PRISON ON STONECUTTERS' ISLAND.

The D.P.W. also submitted minutes showing that at a meeting of the Public Works Committee on 20th July the Chairman laid before the Committee plans which had been prepared for the establishment of a Convict Prison on Stonecutters' Island and explained that the scheme was capable of being expanded so as to provide ultimately for the removal of the entire Gaol to that place so far as such removal was deemed practicable. He also read the report of a Committee appointed in 1901 to consider the question and certain recent correspondence between the Colonial Office and War Department on the subject. After some discussion, the Honourable Colonial Treasurer moved:—That the Government be requested to have the report of the committee appointed in 1901 to consider the question of transferring the Gaol to Stonecutters' Island, together with any subsequent papers bearing upon the question, printed and furnished to this Committee. Hon. C. W. Dickson seconded. For the motion there voted Hon. C. W. Dickson, Sir C. P. Chater, the Colonial Treasurer, and the Director of Public Works; and against it Hon. R. Shewan. The Committee then adjourned.

THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION.

Hon. R. SHEWAN asked—Has the recommendation of the Public Works Commission that the following additions be made to the Works Staff, viz:—2 Executive Engineers, 1 Assistant Engineer, 5 Overseers, and 1 Clerk, been carried out, and if not, why not?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—In answer, sir, to the hon. member's question, I have to say that the whole of the staff recommended by the Commission which enquired into the Public Works Department has been appointed with the exception of one assistant engineer for maintenance work and one overseer for roads inside the City. The increase of the staff recommended by the Commission was based on the assumption that a sum of nearly $800,000 would be spent annually on public works extraordinary. With the large expenditure on water-works, part of which are being carried out by a private firm, it is not contemplated that the Colony will be able to spend so much as was contemplated for public works exclusive of water-works. Therefore a smaller staff than was recommended appears to be sufficient.

FIRST READINGS.

The following Bills were read a first time:—An Ordinance to set apart a holiday to be known as "Victoria Day" in loving remembrance of Her Most Gracious Majesty the late Queen Victoria; an Ordinance to prevent intrusion by other than servant of the occupier of premises into the portion of such premises used as servants' quarters; an Ordinance to provide for the Recovery of Costs and Charges incurred by the Colony by and on behalf of imbecile persons introduced into the Colony; an Ordinance to provide for the Regulation of the Export of Cattle and other Live Stock from the Colony.

WATERWORKS CONSOLIDATION ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to repeal The Water-works Consolidation Ordinance, 1902, and to provide for and regulate the Supply of Water in the Colony of Hongkong and for the Maintenance and Repair of the Works in connection therewith.

The following objects and reasons were attached:—

The Water-works Consolidation Ordinance (No. 29 of 1902), which provided for the disconnection of all services to tenement houses, except in special cases, and the supply of such premises with water from public fountains placed in the streets and lanes did not meet with the approval of the Secretary of State for the Colonies and instructions were received to modify its provisions in such a way as to enable the services to be retained whilst facilities were to be afforded for controlling the supply of water in case of need.

This has been done by providing in the present Bill for the supply of practically the whole of the Chinese portion of the City through "rider-mains." These are subsidiary mains, to which all the services to the houses near which they are laid will be connected, and, as they can be shut off by means of valves from the principal mains, the supply of water to the houses can be restricted to any extent considered necessary without shutting off the water from the City generally as has to be done at present. The powers of restriction are vested in the Water Authority, subject to the general control of the Governor in-Council.

The areas within which the "rider-main" system is to be applied are to be defined by the Governor-in-Council and, when an area has been so defined, all services to tenements within it will be disconnected from the principal mains and connected to the "rider-mains" as they are laid, unless the Governor-in-Council expressly allows any tenement to retain its service connected with the former. This is necessary to provide for premises in which any trade may be carried on, for which a constant supply of water may be practically essential, or which, for other reasons, it may be considered desirable to exempt from the "rider-main" system.

The cost of constructing the "rider-mains" and making the necessary alterations in the services will be charged against the owners of the various tenements within the areas defined by the Governor-in-Council.

Outside the areas defined by the Governor-in-Council and in all cases of exemption within these areas, all services are to be provided with meters.

This is merely an extension of the system which has been in force outside the City of Victoria for a number of years past. In the Hill District and in Kowloon all supplies, though services to private premises, are at present metered.

In the case of metered supplies an allowance of water in proportion to the rateable value of the premises will be given in respect of the water rate, which is included in the general rates, but all water used over and above that

allowance will be charged for as "excess consumption." This, it is hoped, will conduce to the prevention of waste, which is the chief object aimed at in this Bill, as it was also in that which it is intended to replace.

In periods of scarcity of water, the intermittent system of supply will be put in force in the "rider-main" districts only and, as it will be possible to afford every tenement a supply within a very brief period, it is believed that the necessary economy in the consumption will be effected without extending the system to the City generally. This will enable the occupiers of premises which are supplied by meter to enjoy a constant supply of water and it will also provide means for dealing with outbreaks of fire, as all the principal mains will be constantly charged with water.

Until the "rider-mains" have been applied to a considerable portion of the City, it may be necessary to revert to the universal application of the intermittent system as hitherto, but it is hoped that, with their application over an extended area, this will become unnecessary.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

General GASCOIGNE—Before you put the question to the vote, sir, may I ask if this Bill has been submitted to Mr. Chadwick?

H.E. the GOVERNOR—No.

General GASCOIGNE—But has Mr. Chadwick seen the Bill?

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I think not. It is not necessary that he should, because the principle involved is the same as in the existing Ordinance.

General GASCOIGNE—I think, if I may be allowed to be in order, that it is only my duty to point out some of the remarks that were made to me by Mr. Chadwick last year just after the water famine You, sir, were away from the Colony on the occasion of the Coronation of His Majesty——

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I do not wish to interrupt His Excellency but I may state——

H.E. the GOVERNOR—His Excellency the Major-General is in order.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I desire to interrupt——

The GOVERNOR—I would suggest to the hon. Attorney-General that he allow the hon. Major-General to speak on the question of whether this Bill should be read a first time, and after the hon. Major-General has spoken it will be for the Attorney-General to make any remark he may desire.

General GASCOIGNE—I will, if I may be allowed to. You, sir, were not in the Colony last year—you were attending the Coronation of His Majesty—at the time of the water famine. I had the honour at that time of administering the Government in your absence, and the period of anxiety the Council and I went through at that time will be remembered by some of the gentlemen who are present here to-day. We began to look into the water question very early indeed in February so we were not caught napping in that respect, but the famine went on and on until—I am speaking from memory—the first week in May. We had an importation of cholera, which was imported, it is true, and it was a most anxious and serious business for me and for the Council to face the drought which was impending over us. The Council gave me a free hand and assisted me in every possible way with advice and counsel, and I am bound to say the public of Hongkong showed the most loyal patience and forbearance in bearing the terrible troubles that came upon them in consequence Then as our reservoirs became empty and after they were almost absolutely dry the rains came on by a dispensation of Providence. Mr. Chadwick, who had been with me practically the whole time when that pressure was over Hongkong, said to me what I wish to point out to the Council before this Bill goes any further. He said to me, "General, you have got the opportunity of your life. When I came to Hongkong to make these reservoirs in Hongkong there was at that time an Officer Administering the Government like yourself. I proposed to that Officer that the water should be cut off from Chinese tenement houses so as to prevent waste and this was the only measure to adopt to prevent this waste. The matter was discussed and it met with an enormous amount of opposition; and Mr. Chadwick said to me that as when he made these reservoirs they looked so vast to him at that time—the Colony then not being anything like the size it is now as regards population—he felt that perhaps to throw upon the Acting Governor—which was not the same thing as the real Governor—the responsibility of an unpopular measure if it was perhaps not absolutely necessary would be a hard thing; and he therefore recommended the Acting Governor of that day not to press it; and he told me he had only regretted that decision once and that was ever since. "Now," he said, "you have the famine upon you. Everybody has suffered and now is the time to make this Ordinance to prevent waste." He told me, "General, as long as you do not positively prevent the waste of water that goes on you will never have sufficient water even though you may make Hongkong one vast reservoir, but I tell you that if you can check the waste that goes on in Chinese houses you will have sufficient water in ordinary seasons, in every season, even without new reservoirs. I came down very much impressed by that to the Council and there are many gentlemen on the Council to-day who will remember that when it was first proposed they were averse to it They were of opinion that the supply should be one and the same for both Europeans and Chinese. The question was threshed out in committee of the Council and afterwards those who were at first against it came round and we passed the Ordinance that is now in the course of being altered and amended; and all I can say is that I personally felt that the very insignificant part I took in it was a proud one because I felt that we had done a thing for Hongkong which was a lasting benefit to the Colony. I am aware that the Secretary of States for the Colonies, as put in the objects and reasons of the Bill, has telegraphed to your Excellency asking if no other way can be found? I respectfully submit that the answer should be, "No; for we know no other way to prevent waste but the way recommended by Mr. Chadwick, the expert you yourself sent out Ask his opinion, and we are prepared to abide by his opinion." If I may move a resolution, I move that the Bill be not read a first time.

The GOVERNOR—I venture to point out that before we can go farther in this discussion these observations of His Excellency the Major-General would more properly be made on the second reading. The Bill is really not before the Council at all until it is read a first time and it is impossible for the Council to know what is the meaning of the Bill until it is brought before them and read a first time. When the Bill comes on for second reading, then, I venture to suggest to His Excellency, would be the time for the observations that have now been offered. The Bill is not yet before the Council at all. The first reading is always a matter of *pro forma*. When the Bill is brought on for second reading hon. members will have an opportunity of seeing and discussing the Bill as brought before them.

Hon. R. SHEWAN—Sir, I would be willing to give way in this matter, but as I shall not be present at the next meeting of the Council I would ask your indulgence.

HIS EXCELLENCY signified his consent, and,

Hon. Mr. SHEWAN proceeded—I was very pleased to hear the remarks that have fallen from your Excellency with regard to the position of matters and our being given time to consider the Bill in the second reading. At the last meeting of the Council I strongly objected to a Bill being rushed through the second reading without printing the amendments or giving the public time to read the Bill and consider it. I do not know, but I suppose that the intention in deciding that a Bill should be read three times was that the Bill should be discussed and considered three separate times. However, we will come to that part later on. With regard to the Bill, if you will allow me I should like to second the motion of His Excellency Major General Gascoigne, with whose remarks in making that motion I entirely agree. The Bill we had before us last year was very carefully considered, but we have not tried it. I do not think it is right that, after we had carefully considered and discussed and thoroughly threshed out the question of the water supply of this Colony, which was certainly a very great evil last year, we should have all our work undone on account of a few Chinese agitators who, after all, are only led by the nose by a lot of clerks from architects' offices, in whom I exemplified the old saying, "A little knowledge is a dangerous thing" I think it is possible that better ways may be found, but why not let us first try the hydrant system? We know that Chinese coolies and other people like that will waste the water, while we who pay by the meter have to suffer. Let the Government first try that system; if it will not work in a certain district, then it will be time to consider other measures. I agree with Major-General Gascoigne that the matter was very carefully considered and threshed out, and before we do anything more we ought to consider this scheme, especially as it is endorsed by the experts. I think we could have got more impartial experts, but still, they were on the Government side, and the Government ought not to go back on them now.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—Sir, if I may be allowed to say so, with all respect to His Excellency and the hon. member who seconded his amendment, I think the object of this Bill has been misapprehended; it is quite as much to stop waste as was that of the Bill which was introduced last year. The rider-main system was first proposed by Mr. Chadwick himself with a view to—

Hon. R. SHEWAN—Sir, I think the Colonial Secretary is out of order.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—The Colonial Secretary is quite in order.

Hon. Mr. SHEWAN—He seconded the motion and cannot speak again.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—But he can speak on the subsequent motion. I made a motion, and the Colonial Secretary seconded; the hon. member opposite, H.E. Major-General Gascoigne, then made a subsequent motion, and that also has been seconded. The Colonial Secretary is entitled to speak on that motion, which is a separate and distinct one from the original motion.

His EXCELLENCY ruled that the Colonial Secretary was in order, and,

The COLONIAL SECRETARY proceeded—The rider-main system was first proposed by Mr. Chadwick himself with a view to facilitating the distribution of water during the operation of the intermittent system. The rider-main system can be equally well adapted to the prevention of waste, and it is for that purpose that it is now sought to be introduced—for the prevention of waste. It is simply, if I may so describe it in a few short words, a system of huge meters for blocks of buildings instead of separate meters for separate houses. The principle of the Bill was carefully considered by both Mr. Chadwick and Professor Simpson, who was here at the same time as Mr. Chadwick, and it has been adopted and endorsed by both of these experts. I do not think, sir, that the suggestion of the hon. member who seconded the motion that this Colony should go to the expense of first introducing a street fountain system, will commend itself to this Council It will cost a great deal of money, and if as he suggests it is to be in the nature of an experiment, I fear the experiment would be a very expensive one. I repeat again, the object of the Bill, the object we all have before us, is the prevention of waste. The experts, especially Mr. Chadwick, are of opinion that the waste could be stopped by this system, the Government are strongly of that opinion, and our local advisers here are also of the same opinion, and we trust that the hopes of His Excellency the General Officer Commanding, that waste will be prevented, will be realised by this Bill as much as by the Bill which he fathered.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I hope the Council will at once reject this motion, which is one which, whatever it may be designed to do, will have the effect of stifling the discussion of a matter of the greatest interest to the Chinese in this Colony. The Chinese in this community are as a hundred to one or more, and they by an immense majority in a petition to the Secretary of State laid before him certain reasons which they believed ought to be laid before him to allow this Government to introduce a measure which would alter in some particulars the Water Bill we passed last year. I say at once that neither

the hon. member who moved the rejection of the Bill nor the hon. member who seconded intended or wished for an amendment to prevent the Chinese members of this community from being heard in this Council and advocating anything that they believe to be for their good. Whatever the hon. mover and the hon. seconder may desire, the effect of their motion if, entertained by this Council would be to impose upon the Chinese a measure which they believe to be against their interests and to prevent this Council from having an opportunity of hearing anything that can be said on their part. I would ask the hon. mover and seconder to withdraw the motion which I am sure must have been made under a misapprehension. It is one of the most unusual motions ever made in any legislative or deliberative body that leave be not granted to introduce a Bill. That is to say, "I won't hear you; I do not care whether you have reason or no reason to put forward for the proposal you are going to advance; I won't hear you."

Hon. Mr. SHEWAN—Hear, hear.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—It is not a case of "Hear, hear" but of "Not hear, not hear. won't hear." What I say is, I want you to hear. I have reason to believe that the Council will hear, and I am sure the Council will hear and, when they have heard, approve of the Bill that I am instructed to introduce for your consideration. Now, to come back to the spot where the hon. member interjected his remark. This is an almost unprecedented motion. If you look through the records of this Council I think it will be very difficult to find any case in which leave has been refused to introduce a Bill for the consideration of the Council All the remarks of the hon. mover and seconder of the motion and of the hon. Colonial Secretary on this Bill have been directed not to the motion, which was a respectful request to the Council for leave to introduce a Bill, but to what may be called the principle of the Bill. Now, sir, this is not the time to discuss the principle of the Bill. The house is pledged to nothing; I ask no more than leave to introduce this Bill. Despite the remarks of the hon. gentlemen who sit opposite this is not the time to either accept or refuse it It has not reached that stage yet. All I ask is that the Council give me leave to bring in the Bill and I will afterwards, I think, be able to bring home to their knowledge facts which I believe after they hear and digest they will find worthy of consideration. I appeal to the hon. Major-General to withdraw this motion, because I am sure he had no conception of the effect it would have; but if it is not withdrawn I ask that it be rejected.

The GOVERNOR—There is no necessity for a motion such as this. A negative will be quite sufficient.

The Council divided with the following result:—For the first reading—Mr. Dickson, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Wei Yuk, Dr. Ho Kai, Sir C. P. Chater, Dr. Atkinson, Mr Chatham, Commander Rumsey, Mr. Thomson, Sir Henry Berkeley and Mr. May; against — Major-General Gascoigne and Mr. Shewan.

FORESHORES AND SEA-BED ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Foreshores and Sea-Bed Ordinance No. 21 of 1901, and to repeal sub-section (1.) of section 1 of Ordinance No. 11 of 1902. He said —The reasons for the introduction of this Bill are set out in the objects and reason attached to the Bill, which are as follows:—To reduce the period of notice required by the first proviso to section 3 of Ordinance No. 21 of 1901 from three months to one month. The reduction is desired because it has been found unnecessary and inconvenient in practice to require such a long period of notice as three months to be given before the Governor can grant Crown leases of foreshore or sea-bed. I now move, sir, that this Bill be read a second time.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The Council then went into committee on the Bill, and a new clause having been added the third reading was not taken when the Council resumed.

LAND CLAIMS IN THE NEW TERRITORY.

The Council went into committee on the Bill entitled an Ordinance to facilitate the hearing, determination, and settlement of land claims in the New Territories, to establish a Land Court, and for other purposes.

Section 2 as printed was the subject of a series of amendments proposed by the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai and the Hon. R. Shewan, having for their object the elimination of the retrospective character of the section.

Hon. Dr. Ho KAI addressed the Council at considerable length, pointing out *inter alia* that under Ordinance 47 of 1902, a claimant whose claim to land has been allowed by the Land Court had a permanent heritable and transferable right of use and occupancy in his land, and moved that the words "provided that it is within three months after the decision given by the Land Court" be inserted between the words "of the principal Ordinance" and "upon good cause shown."

Hon. R. SHEWAN seconded the amendment.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL replied, pointing out that the object of the Government in making the section retrospective was to enable it to use the power of appeal which by inadvertence had not been given in the principal Ordinance to the Crown, which was a party in reality to every case before the Land Court, while it had been given to ordinary claimants before the Court, and the power of appeal was only desired in certain special cases that had occurred in New Kowloon, and the COLONIAL SECRETARY pointed out that the Ordinance No. 47 of 1902 did not apply to New Kowloon.

The Council divided, when there voted:—For the amendment—Dr. Ho Kai, Mr. Shewan, Mr. Wei Yuk, and Major-General Gascoigne; and against—Mr. Stewart, Sir C. P. Chater, Mr. C. W. Dickson, Dr. Atkinson, Mr. Chatham, Commander Rumsey, Mr. Thomson, Sir Henry Berkeley and Mr. May. The amendment was lost by a majority of 2 votes.

Hon. R. SHEWAN next moved that after the words "Attorney-General" the words "or any one of the parties" be added.

The Council divided, when there voted:—For the amendment - Mr. Shewan, Dr. Ho Kai, Mr. Wei Yuk, Mr. Dickson, Mr. Stewart, and Major General Gascoigne; and against—Sir C. P. Chater, Dr. Atkinson, Mr Chatham, Commander Rumsey, Mr. Thomson, Sir Henry Berkeley and Mr. May. The amendment was lost by a majority of 1 vote.

Hon. Dr. Ho KAI next moved that the words "heretofore made or" in the 5th line of the section be deleted.

The Council divided, when there voted:—For the amendment—Dr. Ho Kai, Mr. Shewan, Mr. Wei Yuk and Major-General Gascoigne; and against—Mr. Stewart, Mr. Dickson, Sir C. P. Chater, Dr. Atkinson, Mr. Chatham, Commander Rumsey, Mr. Thomson, Sir Henry Berkeley and Mr. May.

Council then resumed and the Bill was then reported with amendments.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES.

The Council went into committee on the Bill entitled an Ordinance to authorise the Appropriation of a supplementary sum of $800,201.40 to defray the Charges of the Year 1902.

No alterations having been made, the Bill, on the Council resuming, was read a third time and passed.

RENT RECOVERY IN THE NEW TERRITORY.

The Council went into committee on the Bill entitled an Ordinance to repeal the New Territories Rent-Recovery Ordinance, 1902, and to make other provisions in lieu thereof.

On the Council resuming, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

THE PUBLIC WORKS STAFF.

Hon. R. SHEWAN—Sir, I beg to move the adjournment of the debate in order to call attention to the answer I received from the Colonial Secretary to my question. Time after time the Public Works Department has been severely criticised for not doing its work properly, and time after time—

HIS EXCELLENCY—Might I suggest to the hon. member that he is hardly in order. This moving of the adjournment of the debate for the purpose of calling attention to any matters would be better done, and more completely, by bringing forward a specific motion. If I might suggest it to the hon. member, in any matter which he wishes to debate or have thoroughly threshed out it would be better to have some resolution on the paper, and then the Colonial Secretary or the Director of Public Works, as the case may be, will give you a satisfactory answer. I think that on consideration the hon. member will see that is the better thing to do, and that the matter can then be more thoroughly gone into. Any answer you have received and object to can be debated, and it will be more satisfactory than a statement made on the spur of the moment.

Hon. Mr. SHEWAN—I should be happy to do as you suggest, sir, but I shall not be present at the next Council meeting. I simply wish to record my—

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I beg, sir, to move that the House do now adjourn.

HIS EXCELLENCY—No, no.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I have the right to move that.

HIS EXCELLENCY—The hon. member [Hon. Mr. Shewan] is making a motion.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—He has moved the adjournment of the debate. I am moving the adjournment of the Council.

HIS EXCELLENCY—The hon member must be heard, and I trust he understands that I do not wish to curtail his remarks in any way.

Hon Mr. SHEWAN- I simply wish to express the opinion that the Government are taking a great responsibility upon themselves in flying in the face of that Commission—a Commission on which the previous Colonial Secretary sat. Now the present Colonial Secretary simply ignores the recommendations of the previous Colonial Secretary and the other gentlemen on that Commission, and I wish now to express my emphatic dissent from the action of the Government. When the public complain in future to the Director of Public Works that the work is not properly done, the reply will be that he has not a sufficient staff, and the responsibility for his not having a sufficient staff will now rest with the Government.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—Sir, I should like to say a few words, if I may. One of the points that came up before the Public Works Department was whether outside firms should be employed or not. The decision was no, and the reinforcement of the Department was with the object of carrying out all the work departmentally. But a very large work indeed, the Kowloon waterworks, is in the hands of Messrs. Denison, Ram & Gibb. The Post Office and other offices have been designed by an outside firm, other work—the Bacteriological Institute—has been given out, and I may say for the information of the Council that Government will have to pay as commission to Messrs. Denison, Ram & Gibb something like $80,000 for doing the work of the Public Works Department.

This ended the discussion.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held immediately after the Council, the Colonial Secretary, Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G., presiding

The following votes were agreed to:—

PUBLIC WORKS.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of $29,000 in aid of the votes for the following items under "Public Works, Annually Recurrent Expenditure":—

Maintenance of Public Cemetery ...	$ 2,000.00
Maintenance of Praya Wall and Piers	6,000.00
Maintenance of Lighthouses	2,000.00
Miscellaneous Services	3,000.00
Water Works, Miscellaneous	16,000.00
Total	$29,000.00

CATTLE DEPOT EXTENSION.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of $25,000 in aid of the vote for "Cattle Depôt Extension" under Public Works Extraordinary.

HOSPITAL EXTRAS.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of $334.63 in aid of the vote for Personal Emoluments, Medical Departments:—

Kennedy Town Hospital:—	
Increases to Salaries of Permanent Staff	$108.00
Salaries for Temporary Staff... ...	174.63
	$282.63
Hospital Hulk *Hygeia*:—	
Salaries for Temporary Staff... ...	$52.00
Total	$334.63

PRAYA EAST RECLAMATION.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of $28,000 in aid of the vote for Praya East Reclamation under Public Works Extraordinary.

TREE-PLANTING.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of $1,600 in aid of the vote for Tree Planting under Other Charges, Botanical and Afforestation Department.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT CHARGES.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum $460 in aid of the vote under "Other Charges," Medical Departments:—

Nursing Institute.

Rent of Temporary Quarters.....$46.00

This was all the business.

PREVENTION OF PLAGUE.

THE EXPERIMENTAL BLOCK.

On the 3rd inst. His Excellency the Governor Sir Henry A. Blake, G.C.M.G. formally handed back to the Sanitary Board the block of tenement houses in Second and Third Streets which he had taken over with a view to the carrying out of experimental measures for the prevention of plague as well as new methods of cleansing. The block in question consisted of 253 houses, with 614 floors and a population of 7,701 people. To begin with, the south side of Second Street and the north side of Third Street, between Eastern Street and Western Street, were taken over at the end of April. The first thing set about was the erection of hot-water tanks of over 300 gallons capacity each, in Wei On Lane, Tak Sing Lane, and Sheung Fung Lane. These tanks were used by the inhabitants of the district for dipping their bed-boards and such other furniture as would be likely to harbour vermin. Attached to the same furnaces which heated the tanks were bath-houses, two for men and two for women. A systematic cleansing-out of each house was then undertaken by the people themselves, under the supervision of Police Inspector J. H. Gidley. From nine to twelve floors were washed out each day. About the middle of May both sides of Second and Third Streets between Eastern and Western Streets, and all the lanes and cross-streets within that boundary, were taken in hand and treated in the same way. Latterly an empty house in the district was engaged and fitted up as a temporary hospital, and in the event of infectious disease occurring the patient was removed there and the people living in the same house, after washing it out and disinfecting their clothing, etc., were allowed to remain in it. For the purposes of carrying out the scheme, a *Kaifong* was elected by the community of that district, and they lent valuable assistance to the authorities in the work

The ceremony of handing back the block to the Sanitary Board took place at noon in Second Street, at the point where it is crossed by Centre Street. H.E. the Governor was accompanied by Lady Blake and Sir John Keane, A.D.C.; and there were also present Hon. Dr. J. M. Atkinson, P.C.M.O., President of the Sanitary Board; Hon. W. Chatham, D.P.W., Vice-President; Hon. F. H. May, Colonial Secretary; Mr. Fung Wa Chun, Mr. Ho Kum Tong, Inspector Gidley, and the members of the *Kaifong*. Before the proceedings began a photograph of the group was taken.

HIS EXCELLENCY said—Dr. Atkinson, Mr. Chatham, and Mr. Fung Wa Chun,—I am about to hand back to you this block of buildings that over three months ago you handed to me, to see whether I could get the Chinese people to help themselves and assist in sanitary measures. When I came down here three months ago I was by no means certain that the experiment upon which I had determined to enter would be a success. I asked the people, the leading men of the two streets, to form a *Kaifong*, and seventeen of them came forward for that purpose. I now take this opportunity of thanking these seventeen respectable men who have assisted me during these three months. Among these men I would especially mention the names of Chan Ki, Chak Cheung, Wong Wai, and Liu Wi, whom I always found foremost in the good work of teaching the people how best to help themselves in fighting this terrible epidemic of plague When I came here I promised the people that if they would clean their houses and if they would give notice of cases of disease, those who were affected by plague should be treated in their own houses, and I promised also that they should have tanks in which to dip their bed-boards and furniture, and bath-houses in which to wash themselves and enable them to keep themselves clean. Before we could get these baths put up or these tanks erected, I came down, and within three days I found the whole of the furniture of this street put on the street, and the people themselves had already begun to help to wash their houses as well as they could. I have not a full account of all the people who used the baths during these three months, but 27,275 people have been noted as using these baths The district that the *Kaifong* have been looking after consists of 253 houses, with 614 floors, and with a population of 7,701 people. I am told by Inspector Gidley, who deserves the thanks of the public for the way in which he has worked for the last three months, that he and the *Kaifong* had no difficulty in getting the people to turn out their houses, and to do whatever they were recommended by him to do in the way of disinfection and cleanliness. To Mr. Fung Wa Chun my thanks are also due for the constant care that he has exercised in the supervision of the block: and to show the spirit in which this experiment was taken up by various people, I may say that within a week of taking over the block Mr. Ho Kum Tong handed to Inspector Gidley $200 to be distributed among the destitute people left by those who might be taken away by the plague. The landlords of the houses required for the baths not alone had the houses at once evacuated and handed over to me, but they one and all refused to take any rent for the houses for the two months, and two landlords Yu Shau Tin and Wong Chun Shun, have refused to take any rent at all for their houses up to the present. No country could show a greater public spirit than this, for for it must be remembered that these landlords are not rich men owning large properties, but are the landlords that live among you and own these small tenements in the district. I thank them most heartily for the public spirit which they have shown. Now, coming to the incidence of plague during the last three months, one of the principal duties of the *Kaifong* was to see that cases of illness were reported as soon as possible. I know that when one feels a little sick one very often says nothing about it, and that is not confined to the Chinese people; but I have take taken a note of 24 cases reported by the *Kaifong*, and I find that of those cases eight were reported at once, seven were reported after two days' illness, one after three days, two after five, three after six and one after seven. Now, in those cases where the longer time elapsed it was found on enquiry that the person was first infected by plague, and in many of those cases I think that the people themselves did not know or did not realise that they were ill until the time came, but as soon as they did realise that they were ill they reported to the *Kaifong*. I may say that in this district no body was dumped during that time, with one exception—and I believe the *Kaifong* could tell me something about that if they liked, for it was not from this district. Now, all this shows to me that the Chinese people of Hongkong are prepared to help themselves and to help the authorities if they are called upon to do so. The *Kaifong* and the people of the district know with what kindness and care Dr. Atkinson and Dr. Pearse looked after those poor people who were ill, and they have learned to know and to realise that both these gentlemen, who are charged with looking after the public health of the Colony, are their friends, and their best friends. I am now handing back this district in which we have worked together for over three months, and I ask the *Kaifong*, who have worked so well with me, to continue to give their assistance to the officers of the Sanitary Board who will now be looking after the health of the district. Now, I will add only one or two words of advice to my friends around me. We know that when Sheung Fung Lane was empty in consequence of the number of cases of plague there, we collected a number of bugs and spiders and sent then to be examined. Eight people from that lane had died, and the question was—How did they get the plague? We found, when these bugs were examined by Dr. Hunter, that they were full of plague When those two poor little boys died at No. 109 in this street, we found in that house some bugs, and sent them for examination, and these bugs were found to be infected with plague Now you will understand the reason why it is necessary to keep your houses clean and to kill vermin, because the bite of these vermin may mean the death of a man; and you all know that since you began to dip your bed-boards in these tanks of boiling water, you have had a great deal more comfort than you had before. I want you to continue to keep your houses clean as they are now. The plague is over for this year, but the plague is not dead. Next February the plague will begin again, and if the plague finds bugs and insects in the houses with plague in them, then men will die as they died before. You have got your houses clean now, because the whole of them have been thoroughly washed, and the furniture in them dipped in boiling water twice over. I will ask the President and the Vice-President of the Sanitary Board, Dr. Atkinson and Mr. Chatham, to leave those tanks, so that you will have an opportunity of keeping yourselves and your houses clean. I hope you will continue to use them and to impress upon your neighbours the necessity of cleanliness. I find there are on an average 12 people living on every floor in the houses in the whole of this district, and under the new law there is no room on each floor for more than six people. This overcrowding may not matter during the summer months, when so many sleep in the streets, but when November comes and people sleep together in the houses, then they breed bad air, and they are unhealthy, and when the plague strikes them in February or March, they have no strength to fight against it. I want you to think over my words. They are spoken for your benefit. And now, having said so, I hand back this district to the sanitary authorities, and once more I ask you who have been working so well with me to continue to give your assistance to the authorities in the future. I thank you most heartily for the loyal and splendid way in which you have worked for me, and I hope that the lesson that has been learned from the experiment in this district may prove of immense benefit to the whole colony of Hongkong in the future, because it has shown that the Chinese people are not apathetic, and that they are ready to help when it is explained to them that their help is necessary in carrying out the ordinary work of sanitation for the people. For myself, I shall always look back upon the time spent with great satisfaction, because it has brought me into contact with you working men of the *Kaifong*, and shown me how much good stuff there is among the Chinese population if we only look for it. To Mr. Liu Yi I now present a letter of thanks for the good work done by the *Kaifong* and I shall also present a copy, signed, to each member of the *Kaifong*. And now I wish you good-bye, and I most heartily wish you prosperity and safety and health in the future. (Applause.)

As His Excellency delivered his speech it was interpreted by Mr. Fung Wa Chun for the benefit of the surrounding Chinese.

MR. HO KUM TONG, addressing His Excellency, thanked him for his presence there that day and for the very great interest he had always taken in the work of stamping out plague in this Colony. His Excellency had shown his sympathy with every class of the community, rich and poor alike. Another year of plague was drawing to a close, and for the present the work in connection with the *Kaifong* in Second and Third Streets had terminated. The thanks of Chinese and Europeans alike should be accorded to him for the untiring energy which had marked His Excellency's term of office in Hongkong in fighting the dreadful disease, and encouraging others to help forward the work. His Excellency had referred to the small gift which he (Mr. Ho Kum Tong) had presented; he considered it his duty to act as he had done, and in future he would be very pleased to do any such slight service in rendering the work more effective. If he might be allowed, he would like to mention the name of Inspector Gidley, who

had done a great deal in carrying out the work. On behalf of the *Kaifong* and of the community he thanked His Excellency very much for his kindness and the genuine interest he had taken in them. (Applause.)

Mr. LIU YI also spoke. He thanked His Excellency for the merciful kindness displayed by him in undertaking to look after these two blocks of buildings of the lower class people. His Excellency had undertaken the work out of pure goodness of heart. If the plague come next year the *Kaifong* would assist the Sanitary Board to carry out their work if it was done in the same way as was adopted by His Excellency. They had to thank Mr. Fung Wa Chun, who had come down there very often, and Dr. Atkinson for the kind way in which he had looked after patients, also Dr. Pearse and Dr. Leong, the Chinese doctor. Dr. Atkinson and Dr. Pearse had treated the Chinese with great kindness; indeed, he thought they showed more consideration for the Chinese than for the European patients. They would come and sit on the bed and turn the patient up, and many doctors would not do that. His Excellency, too, when he had cases reported to him, came down to see them, and the members of the *Kaifong* and the inhabitants would remember his kindness as long as they lived. (Applause).

On the call of Mr. FUNG WA CHUN, three cheers were given for His Excellency, and the company afterwards dispersed.

The following is the letter of thanks which His Excellency is presenting to each member of the *Kaifong*:—

Government House,
Hongkong, 3rd August, 1903.

The Governor desires to thank the following members of the *Kaifong* who volunteered their services during the epidemic of plague in Hongkong in 1903. The Governor highly appreciates the good work they have done by inducing their neighbours to take precautions against the spread of the plague—precautions that he hopes may have been the means of saving the lives of some among them:—

Chan Ki.	Cheng Tai.
Chak Cheung.	Kwok Nam.
Mak Sui.	Fung Kun.
Mak Hi	Un Shai Ki.
Mak Chak.	Tsau Sang.
Lau Chiu	Cheong Chi.
Liu Yi.	Wan Fun.
Wong Wai.	Mang Yat.
Tam Chun.	Chan Chun.
Man Ling.	

THE NAVAL DOCK QUESTION.

The correspondence relating to the agitation for the removal of the Admiralty Dockyard Extension was on the 31st ult. laid upon the table of the Legislative Council

In forwarding the petition H.E. the Governor wrote:—"Apart from the arguments for the change put forward by the petitioners I venture to submit that the whole question of a naval dock at Hongkong is worthy of careful reconsideration by my Lords of the Admiralty. The Hongkong & Whampoa Dock Company have at present five dry docks besides three slips. In one of these docks H.M.S. *Powerful* has been docked. The company is prepared, if the naval authorities desire it, to construct another dock capable of accommodating the largest vessel afloat, they are prepared to supply the dock with the latest improvements in machinery and to lay down a plant capable of dealing with any repairs that could be required for H. M. ships and to give to the naval authorities perpetual right of priority. Messrs. Butterfield & Swire are also at present constructing a dock of the largest size. I venture to say that with such docking facilities existing and prospective the repairs of His Majesty's ships would be executed in an entirely satisfactory manner and at a very substantial saving to the Imperial Government. The Dock Company have a thoroughly efficient staff with the best appliances, and there is constant work, while a naval dockyard must have an expensive establishment always at full strength, while it is improbable that the work required for the Fleet on the China Station will keep the dock fully occupied all the year round. The annual expenditure involved is very considerable and I would urge upon the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty the advisability of sending out a Commission to enquire on the spot into the important questions involved. There is in Hongkong capital and enterprise sufficient to carry out any scheme of docks that His Majesty's Government may decide to be necessary.

When the unfavourable reply was received from Mr. Chamberlain, the Governor intimated in his acknowledgement that the information had been received by all sections of the resident community with much regret.

BUILDINGS ON THE PRAYA RECLAMATION.

MESSRS. A. S. WATSON'S BLOCK.

There are a few better sites on the Praya Reclamation than the one formed by the converging Chater and Des Vœux Roads at their junction near the Hongkong Hotel. It is a commanding position, in the heart of the business portion of the town, close to the site of the new Post Office and with frontages to two of the widest and most important roadways.

The site has been secured by the Land Investment and Agency Co. who are erecting business premises, now rapidly nearing completion, to be leased to Messrs. A. S. Watson & Co. It is a triangular block, isolated, with Chater and Des Vœux Roads on the principal sides and a private lane on the third side or base of the triangle.

In the middle of each of the roadway frontages is a principal entrance, leading by a short arched corridor into a central hall containing the staircase and elevator which serve the whole of building above the gound level. The apex of the triangle on the ground floor and a similar space on the second floor are being reserved by Messrs. Watson & Co. for their own use. Their ground floor portion will consist of three shops which will be used as General Store, Dispensing Department, and Wine and Spirit Department, connected one with the other by swing doors. The remaining portion of the ground floor consists of two shops. The first, 54 feet long and 35 ft. wide, fronting Chater Road, is let to Messrs. Gaupp & Co; the second 82 feet long and 35 feet wide, fronting Des Vœux Road, to Messrs. Powell and Co., who will occupy also the corresponding rooms on the floor above as show-rooms and work-shops. A special entrance and staircase has been arranged for their own use.

Between the shops and facing the back lane are the servants' quarters, eleven stories in height, with their own staircase.

The first, second and third floors will be used for the most part as offices, and amongst those who have already secured accommodation may be mentioned—Messrs. Ewens and Harston, Drs. Stedman, Rennie and Harston, Drs. Jordan, Gibson and Swan, Dr. F. Hall Wright, China Mutual Life Insurance Co., Ld., Messrs. Palmer and Turner, Linstead and Davis, North China Insurance Co., Ld., Humphreys Estate and Finance Co., Ld., and Hongkong High-level Tramways Co., Ld. The 4th floor has been entirely reserved for the Hongkong branch of the Young Men's Christian Association.

In the centre of the building on each floor are lavatories of ample accomodation, fitted with the latest pattern of sanitary goods and arranged with cross ventilation; and at the back of the building are the servants' quarters with separate staircase from the lane, well isolated for the office building and connected with it by bridges across the open areas.

The building internally is fitted up in a first-class manner, materials and workmanship of the best quality being used throughout. The ground floor shops are specially lofty and well lighted by the large circular teakwood and plate-glass windows. The ceilings are of teakwood with moulded cornices dividing them into bays, each of which is ribbed and panelled. The floors are of encaustic tiles laid on concrete.

The offices are high and spacious, and arranged for the most part to allow of dividing walls being recovered without structurally affecting the building should two or more offices require to be thrown into one.

The verandahs and lavatories have floors of concrete paved with encaustic tiles and the lavatory walls are covered with a dado of white glazed tiles.

The building has verandahs over the footpaths on the principal fronts. The façades are treated in the style of the English Renaissance. The lower portion is of granite with massive arches of wide span, the entrances being masked by narrower bays and projecting cornices and balconies; the three next floors have a combinnation of the Doric and Corinthian orders completed by the arched openings and principal cornice above the third floor. The top floor is treated as an attic, its small arches of light and graceful outline balanced by the simple lines of the crowning gables. A special feature is made of the circular corner which is carried up to a height of 135 feet above the pavement, finishing in a balcony and colonnade surmounted by a dome and flagstaff, seen for the length of Des Vœux Road and visible from the harbour.

The building has been designed by and carried out under the superintendence of Messrs. Palmer and Turner, architects. It should form when completed a pleasing addition to the architecture of the Colony, and provide Messrs. Watson & Co. with suitable and commodious premises on the most modern lines and with all up-to-date requirements.

THE ITALIAN CONVENT.

The ceremony of the annual distribution of prizes to the scholars of the Italian Convent on the 4th inst. was a most interesting one. H.E. the Governor, Sir Henry Blake, and Lady Blake presided, and amongst others present were the Right Rev. Bishop Piazzoli, Roman Catholic Mission; Chevalier Z. Volpicelli, Italian Consul-General, and Madame Volpicelli; Sir John Keane, A.D.C. to H.E. the Governor; and, Mr. E. A. Irving, Inspector of Schools, and Mrs. Irving.

An address by Miss C. BURKE was the first item on a nicely-arranged programme, and she delivered it in the following terms:—Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,—Our Reverend Mother Superior has honoured me by permitting me to speak on this occasion of joy to many of us, and to tender her deep feeling of genuine gratitude towards you all, who have had the great goodness to honour our distribution of prizes with your benevolent presence, which is a proof that you wish to see us virtuous and clever. Oh! do accept her sincere thanks, and ours also. I wish I could duly express to you her feelings and those of my companions and myself, but being unable to do so, surely your goodness will excuse my deficiency. Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I must be brief, because I am told that your time is precious. (Applause.)

Then followed the presentation of the prizes, which was interspersed with musical numbers whose execution reflected all credit on the pupils and their instructors. At the close,

Miss J. BURROWS said—Encouraged by gratitude, once more your benevolent attention is called, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. I know you will excuse us, because indulgence is a virtue which has its throne in every noble heart. The Reverend Mother Superior is very much obliged to you all. She thanks you very heartily, and assures you all that your goodness in honouring this occasion will always be remembered by her and by her community with gratitude. Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, you have sacrificed your valuable time to honour our entertainment, and we all quite understand you have done so because you wish to see us love virtue and science. Oh! we crave our good God to bless you all for your goodness and to pour His blessings upon all those who are dear to you. (Applause.)

The singing of the National Anthem by the scholars brought the proceedings to a close.

The following is the prize list:—

Standard VII:—Julia Burrows, geography, elementary science, and mapping; Josquina Sá, writing and order, composition, grammar, arithmetic and mapping; Angeline Lee Lun, elementary science, geography, writing and mapping; Maggie Brewster, history, geography, composition, arithmetic, and mapping; Clara Burke, arithmetic, composition, history, grammar, geography, elementary science and mapping.

Standard VI.:—Teresa Barretto, composition,

grammar, reading, history, geography and arithmetic; Angelina Gardner, geography, arithmetic, grammar, history, reading and composition; Kate Enanson, history, composition, arithmetic, grammar, geography and reading; Ennestina Marques, grammar, history, composition, geography and reading; Maria Emilia Britto, composition, reading, geography, history, arithmetic and grammar.

Standard V.:—Encarnacion Querubin, composition, grammar, geography, and arithmetic; Emily Watling, composition, arithem tic, grammar and geography; Cecilia Lucban, grammar, geography, composition and arithmetic.

Standard IV.:—Pepita Munor, arithmetic, grammar, dictation, geography and reading; Mafalda Barradas, geography, arithmetic and grammar; Elisa Camara, grammar, arithmetic, dictation and reading; Marie Nelasco Silva, geography, arithmetic, dictation and reading; Gracita Ycaza, dictation and reading; Noemi Marques, grammar, reading, geography and arithmetic; Mary Santos, reading, dictation, geography, grammar and arithmetic.

Standard III:—Felisa Munoz, arithmetic, writing, order, geography, reading grammar and dictation; Maria Romero, arithmetic, grammar, dictation and geography; Angelina Barradas, gramma , geography, arithmetic, reading and writing; Januaria Sison, arithmetic, grammar, dictation and reading; Maria Gomes Silva, dictation, grammar, a ithmetic, geography and reading; Carmen Munoz, geography, writing, arithmetic and regular attendance; Celina Rozario, dictation, geography and reading; Hortensia Baptista, arithmetic, dictation and grammar.

Standard II.:—Lonise Hicks, reading, geography, arithmetic and dictation: Isabel Hicks dictation, arithmetic and geography; Joao Gomes Silva, arithmetic and reading; Victoria Munor, reding and geography; Alice Brandt, reading, dictation, arithmetic and geography; Jessie Pestonjee, geography, dictation and order.

Standard I:—Pilar Ros, dictation and arithmetic; Etelvina Remedios, reading; Carolina Morero, reading, dictation and arithmetic; Emilia Muscal, arithmetic, reading and dictation; Aurea Ozorio, dictation, arithmetic and reading; rancisca Santos, reading, dictation and arithmetic; Celeste Remedios, reading, dictation and arithmetic; Angelina Carvalho, reading and regular attendance.

PORTUGUESE SCHOLARS.

Standard I:—Ricarda Xavier, reading; Maria Rodriguez, arithmetic; Louisa Torres, dictation, reading and regular attendance; Joao Xavier, reading and dictation.

Standard II:—Iria Portaria, writing and dictation; Maria Soares, dictation and writing.

Standard III:—Kate Brockett, dictation, arithmetic and writing; Gionamiva Remedios, geography, dictation and arithmetic; Isabel Botelho, daily lessons, reading and good order.

Standard IV.:—Sara Luz, reading and arithmetic; Maria Emilia Gutierrez, reading and arithmetic; Judith Botelho, reading and arithmetic.

Standard V.:—Garmelina Noronha, arithmetic, application and good order.

THE THEATRE ROYAL.

When the Pollard Company open in the Theatre Royal on the 12th inst. the public of Hongkong will have an opportunity of observing the improvement made in the building since it was closed at the end of last season. At a cost approaching $3,500 the internal arrangements and accommodations have been improved upon in a manner that should tend to render the Theatre more omfortable for both players and spectators alike. To Mr. Brough for suggestions and to Mr. Bowley and Mr. E. W. Mitchell for supervising the work the thanks of all are due. In the dress circle the four boxes at the sides have been taken away and the old wooden balustrade replaced by an iron one, in order to bring all the side seats into a better line of sight. This step will commend itself to all as a most sensible one, for from their extremely unfavourable position these chairs have hitherto simply been in the way. The slope of the seats generally has been rearranged so as to provide as good a view as possible, and, to better the acoustic properties of the hall, screens have been placed in position between the iron pillars. The floor of the stalls has been raised six inches, with the result that the stage can now be watched without one getting on one's feet when one's interest has been aroused to any unusual extent by the doings of the players. Alterations have also been made on the stage itself to bring the scenery up to modern requirements and make this vital part of the Theatre as perfect as may be. On the left-hand side, on a level with the stage, a box has been erected, and it adds to the attractiveness of the auditorium which is now illuminated in its entirety by electricity.

PROMENADE CONCERT AT KOWLOON.

On the 1st inst. a promenade concert was held on the lawn of Pagoda Bungalow, Kowloon, the residence of Messrs. Letton and Stebbings. The attendance was very large, something like two hundred invitations having been sent out and accepted, and the spectacle on the lawn, which was lighted by electricity and decked with flags, was animated in the extreme. The weather, too, was favourable, a cooling breeze following on the rain of the afternoon helping to drive the oppressiveness out of the atmosphere, and though earlier in the day the meteorological aspect was scarcely encouraging, the threatening clouds disappeared before the gathering night and left the serenity of the evening undisturbed. The programme was extensive and tastefully arranged, and its various items were rendered most creditably. Several of the entertainers, as a glance at the programme will show, have already appeared advantageously in public, so that the success of their turns was assured: as for the remaining numbers, their exponents made the most of their opportunities and added appreciably to enjoyment of a very pleasant evening indeed At its close the chairman, Mr. W. C. Jack, called for a vote of thanks for the promoters and entertainers alike, and it was heartily given. Appended is the full programme:—

Piano Overture "Military March,"..... Mr. Olive
Song... "Every Bullet has its Billet," Mr. Rogers
Comic Song..... "Faces," ..... Mr. Robins
Mandolin Solo "Carnival Polka," ... Mr. Allwork
Recitation { "Christmas Day in the Workhouse," } Mr. Burnett
Comic Song { "If one ain't enough, twenty a'n't too many," } Mr. Crawford
Piano, Mandolin, Violin, and Flute... { "Royal Star Polka," } Messrs. Olive, Allwork, Sibbit and Chopard

SHORT INTERVAL.

Phonograph Selections, ... Mr. Power
Piano Selection { "Ecoutez Moi—Romance sans paroles,"..... } Miss Dolly Terrill
Comic Song { "Mary of Argyle" (Parody)..... } Mr. Burnett
Song ..... "Flight of Ages," ..... Mr. Terrill
Comic Song..... "Irish Jubilee,"..... Mr. Robins
Song..... "The Bugler," ..... Mr. Whittick
Piano ..... "Imitations,"..... Mr. Olive
Song..... "Daddy,"..... Mr. Thwaites

SHORT INTERVAL.

Phonograph Selections, ... Mr. Power
Piano Mandolin, Violin, and Flute... { "A Summer's Ride," ..... } Messrs. Olive, Allwork, Sibbit, and Chopard
Song "Song of the Steeple on the Hill," Mr. Rogers
Comic Song... "They found me,"... Mr. Crawford
Song "What am I, Love, without thee?" Mr. Ashford
Recitation, Scene from *The Rivals*, Mr. French
Song..... "The British Lion," ... Mr. Bowen
"God Save the King."

The committee was composed of the following gentlemen:—Messrs. Letton, Stebbings, Clelland, Stewart, Sibbett, Hyatt, and Harvey.

The Government of India has agreed that the appointment of a *Thathanbaing* or Buddhist Archbishop for Upper Burma, selected by non-Government agency, shall be recognised by Government. His ecclesiastical jurisdiction will be recognised only so far as it affects administrative as distinct from ecclesiastical matters. He will be supreme in all matters relating to the internal administration and control of the Buddhist hierarchy in Upper Burma, the discipline of the monastic order and the repression of abuses therein. Great satisfaction is expressed in Burma at the Government's decision.

NOTES FROM THE BOTANIC GARDENS.

Many of the Ixoras are showy plants when in flower. At the present moment a bush of a variety of *Ixora coccinea* with its orange-scarlet flowers makes a very pleasing sight on the lawn near the entrance to the No. 1 house. This particular plant was nearly killed by the frost of January, 1893, but it has now lost all trace of the damage then done. The flowers are freely produced in cymes or, in common parlance, trusses at the ends of the branches. Ixoras belong to the same family as the Coffee and Cinchona and the species under notice is a native of India and Ceylon where it ascends to a height of 2,000 ft.

The perfume known as Ilang-Ilang is, we have no doubt, familiar to most ladies. This scent is distilled from the flowers of *Cananga odorata*, an Anonaceous plant, specimens of which are now in flower in both the old and new gardens. The flowers, which are greenish-yellow, are not very conspicuous as they differ only slightly in colour from the leaves. They are produced in great numbers and although their presence may be detected at great distances by their scent they can be readily seen only at close quarters. The Ilang-Ilang is largely cultivated in India and many other tropical countries. One tree stands in the new garden just inside the central gate, Albany Road, and another at the top of the big steps at the north-east entrance in the old garden.

There are not many Madagascar plants in the gardens but there is one which may well be grown by anyone who is fond of flowering shrubs. This is *Cryptostegia Madagascariensis* with purple flowers which are borne very abundantly throughout the summer months. There are several plants dotted about on the lawns in the old garden and at the present time they look well.

The rainfall for the year up to the end of July amounted to 59.6 inches and for the month of July 11.47 inches.

SIR ERNEST SATOW IN BOMBAY.

The following is to text of Sir Ernest Satow's speech to the Bombay Millowners' Association last month, as given in the *Times of India's* report:—

Mr. President and gentlemen,—The magnitude of the interests of Indian commerce in China afford a complete justification of the wish you have expressed to acquaint me with your views as to the effect of the new Commercial Treaty on that trade, and of your desire to obtain such information as I may be in a position to communicate. I need hardly say that it has given me very great pleasure to receive your invitation to meet you here to-day, as it affords me an opportunity of affirming the solidarity of British interests in all parts of the world, and of expressing my belief in the necessity of co-operation between H. M.'s subjects, no matter where their sphere of activity may lie, and servants of the State, no matter under what department they may be serving. With regard to the first question in which you are interested, namely, whether Article VIII. of the new Treaty is likely to come into force on 1st January next, I think I may safely say that such an event is practically impossible. Of the numerous Powers that are entitled to most-favoured-nation treatment in China only two besides Great Britain have up to the present commenced negotiations for the revision of their commercial treaties. Those negotiations, after proceeding for more than six months, have, I understand, come to a standstill in consequence of the proposal made by the Chinese Government to remove them from Shanghai to Peking. This proposal as far as is known at present, has not been accepted by the two Powers concerned, and I am unable to say when it is likely that the negotiations will be resumed. Even supposing that they were brought to a conclusion, it is unlikely that the arrangements as to the abolition of *lekin* evil they will contain will be found to be identical with those inserted in the British Treaty. The remaining Powers, I believe, have as yet appointed no negotiators, and judging from our past experience of what happens when a number of

Powers having varying interests find themselves face to face with negotiations that cannot have effect until all the separate interests, separately promoted, have been reconciled, I think it is likely to be some time yet before all the Treaty Powers will fall into line with respect to this question of *lekin*. You are aware gentlemen, that the reform or abolition of the existing system—or want of system—in the levying of the transit dues known as *lekin*, has been urged upon the attention of H. M.'s Government by various bodies interested in the China trade, and especially by mercantile bodies directly connected with China, for many years past. It was impossible, therefore, when an opportunity was given to H.M.'s Government of negotiating a revision of the treaty of 1858, that they should not avail themselves of it, in order, if possible, to give satisfaction to the interests of manufacturers and merchants. And I venture to think that if we could count upon the good faith of the Chinese Government in carrying out their engagements, such an arrangement as is contained in Art. VIII. of the Treaty so patiently and skilfully negotiated by the British Commissioner, Sir James Mackay, is the best that could be made in order to obtain the end in view; namely, of freeing commerce from the fetters imposed on it by this system of internal taxation, while at the same time securing to the China Government a revenue sufficient for carrying on the administration of the country, and for meeting their financial obligations to foreign governments and investors in the Chinese foreign debt. But since there are Powers whose interests in the prosperity of the China trade can by no means be compared with those of the British Empire in point of magnitude of those interests, it is not unnatural that they may feel less earnest in this matter than H.M.'s Government have shown themselves. There is one remark I feel it is necessary to make in reply to the observation that when China declared herself unable to pay the indemnity imposed upon her to meet the expenses of the expeditions despatched by various Powers to relieve the foreign legations, to protect the foreign residents throughout China, and to put down the Boxer movement, Great Britain came forward and said "increase your import duties to five per cent." Gentlemen, this proposition was not made by Great Britain. It can safely be affirmed that if Great Britain alone had been concerned, she would have displayed the same moderation as she showed in 1858 and in 1861, when she demanded an indemnity far inferior in amount to the expenditure she had incurred, in common with her single ally on those occasions; but there were other Powers that did not feel the same disposition, and the only principle which found favour was that of insisting upon China paying the whole cost of the expedition of 1900. When, under such circumstances, it is indispensable in order to arrive at a settlement that unanimity must be obtained, when there are eleven Powers negotiating for a common purpose, it is necessary for those who find themselves in the minority to give way, and thus H.M.'s Government found themselves unable to manifest that moderation and consideration for China that they would have preferred. It was urged upon them by certain of the Powers with much insistence that the Customs duties should be raised to 10 per cent. *ad valorem*. They refused to consent to this proposal, which would have cast the greater portion of the burden upon British commerce, but as a compromise they intimated their willingness to revise the import tariff so that the duties should become what they were intended to be by the treaty of 1858, namely, 5 per cent., and in doing this I think they must be held to have defended British interests very effectually. You will not, gentlemen, I think, expect me to discuss the whole of Article VIII. in all its details, nor to go into the question of the excise duty, especially as I have not the text before me. At the same time, I would beg to remind you that such safeguards have been provided as in the opinion of H. M.'s Government will sufficiently ensure its fair application, so that the import trade shall not suffer any detriment from the Article being carried into effect after it has been accepted by all the other Powers. With reference to the question of exchange with China, I fully recognise the inconvenience of the fluctuations which must necessarily occur in the exchange between gold and silver countries, and I trust it may not be impossible to find a remedy. I would however not wish it to be supposed that this can be found, by retracing the steps that have been taken in the past with regard to the currency of different portions of the British Empire. Year after year more states have adopted the gold standard, and I believe that it is destined to become universal. You are aware that the Governments of the United States, Mexico, and China, being the two principal silver producing countries, and the chief silver-using country, have taken up this question, and that a Commission charged with its study has been despatched from America with the object of conferring with the Governments that are chiefly interested in Chinese commerce and finance. It is too early yet to make any forecast of what the result of their labours may be, but, speaking for myself, I may perhaps assure you, gentlemen, that the reform of Chinese currency is a matter in which I take a deep interest, and that I shall gladly carry out any instruction I may receive from H. M.'s Government to assist in urging upon the Chinese Government the adoption of the necessary measures.

In answer to a question by Mr. H. E. E. Procter as to what he meant by the words, "the near future," Sir Ernest Satow said nothing was so dangerous as to prophesy unless one knew. But the Commission arrived in London in the beginning of June. After sitting in London the Commission would go to Berlin, Paris, the Hague, and, he believed, St. Petersburg. He believed that four or five months would be occupied in Russia, as the latter country had big interests at stake and claimed one-third of the total amount of the indemnity. Then, of course, when the Commission was finished, there would come the most difficult part of all—the persuading of the Chinese Government to accept its proposals. They were all aware that the Chinese currency was in a most confused state. Then there were other difficulties. But it was quite evident that unless some reform was effected in the systems of currency and taxation which existed in China she would have the greatest difficulty in extricating herself from her present financial situation. Unless they gave a very liberal meaning to the words "the near future" he did not think the change would come about in the near future, and they should be prepared to labour under the inconveniences which existed at present for at least some years longer.

Mr. C. Armstrong desired to know what was the position of Hongkong in the matter of a gold standard.

Sir Ernest Satow, in reply, said he was not in a position to say what was likely to happen. He, however, knew that the interests of Hongkong were bound up very much with those of the mainland, and by many interested in the trade of Hongkong is was thought that it would be suicidal for them to adopt the gold standard when China did not.

INVESTIGATION OF RINDERPEST IN CHINA.

During my stay in Shanghai, I had the pleasure of visiting the cattle-yards, a short distance from the city, and became very much interested in the successive means employed for the prevention of "rinderpest." In the first place, the cattle-yards are divided up so that each drove of animals, in various stages of the inoculation, are separated and apart from the others, those which have the severest form of the rinderpest, contracted by the immune procedure, are placed in a covered yard composed of numberless stalls and capable of containing as many as five hundred head comfortably. This yard is called the "sick ward," and particular pains are taken in the methods used for the disinfection of it; all the straw and other material, after contamination, is burnt, and a liberal use of lime is made. Not only is all waste material destroyed by fire and other means of absolute disinfection, but scrupulous cleanliness is observed in all matters, whether pertaining to the care of the animals or to the appliances of this so called "sick ward." Those animals that recover from the inoculation and are convalescing are placed in other yards, according to the extent of recovery, and finally, after they begin to enjoy their meals and take on what flesh and fat that were lost during the two weeks of immunisation, they are ready for shipment to the Philippine Islands. It may appear to the unprofessional observer that such stringent means are unnecessary, but not so; although as great a percentage as from ten to fifteen die while undergoing inoculation, the least deviation from the methods employed by the proprietors would result in failure to thoroughly immunise sufficiently to satisfy the U.S. Government.

The rinderpest serum for Chinese cattle is prepared by an expert, and the same veterinarian supplies serum for immunising the large numbers of *carabao* that have been recently shipped to the Philippines. At present as many as fifty thousand *carabao* are being transported from China (at Uncle Sam's expense) to make up for the loss in the Islands from the ravages of rinderpest of this valued beast of burden.

It may seem strange, nevertheless it is a fact, that few people really know what rinderpest is. I have heard it described all the way from foot-rot to a chronic skin eruption, and I myself had been at a loss until on this recent occasion I had the pleasure of investigating its character in person. I must say that I was surprised at my discovery, for I found a complaint that corresponds almost exactly with acute dysentery in the human being. The period of incubation is about five days, then the animal's temperature goes up from 100, gradually increasing as the disease progresses, and sometimes just before the final collapse, and prior to death, the temperature reaches 106 or more. After five days of incubation there is a stage of diarrhœa and continued elevation of temperature, which lasts about one week or ten days, when the climax is reached, and when they either get better or die. None but cloven-footed animals contract the rinderpest; no case of a horse, for instance, having had the disease, is on record.

The *régime* for inoculation is simple. The animal is placed in bamboo stocks (in the West we would use something else, so that the feet are secure, otherwise in demonstrating his objection to having needles run into his flesh the bullock might naturally delay the process, which usually takes twelve and a half minutes). Ten cubic centimetres of virulent blood from another animal with the disease in progress, and fifty C.C. of the prepared serum from an immune animal, are then injected into the subcutaneous tissues, just behind the fore-legs, well down on the abdomen; and after about twelve and one half minutes, the serum and germ-soaked blood begin a battle for supremacy in the system of the unfortunate bovine. Which will win remains to be seen. This inoculation is repeated in five days, sometimes in less time, and sometimes two or three extra injections are needed, depending on the animal's condition; then you increase either the amount of serum or infected blood injected.

It is to be hoped that by continuous inoculations and perseverance on the part of Government employees, as well as private firms, at some time in the future a breed of cattle will be developed that shall be immune from birth, thereby removing one of the greatest curses the Filipinos have to contend with at present. Let us trust that the honest work of honest men may continue in this direction, and that science may soon be blessed with further discoveries for eradicating this fearful pest.—*Contributed.*

The Russian Minister at Seoul is said to have claimed damages from the Corean Government as compensation for the destruction of the telegraph line on the Yalu River, which was pulled down by order of the Governor of Wiju. The Corean Minister for Foreign Affairs has refused the Russian claim, and says with regard to the allegation that other countries have greater privileges than Russia, that English and American concessionaires were allowed to construct their telegraph lines at the mines after obtaining the consent of the Corean Government. On the other hand, the Russians had constructed their lines without any permission from, or communication with, the Corean Government. The Corean Government must therefore absolutely refuse the claims of the Russian Minister.

THE STRANDING OF THE "CARRIER DOVE."

The finding of the U.S. Marine Court, Shanghai, which enquired into the stranding of the sailing vessel *Carrier Dove*, has been rendered as follows (we take the report from the *N.-C. Daily News*):—

The evidence before us shows that, as the *Carrier Dove* approached the shores of China after a prosperous voyage, observations were taken fixing her position up to June 28th at 3 p.m. None could be taken afterwards. By the Captain's calculations the North Saddles Light would be about 26 miles S.W. at daylight on the morning of June 30th. Shortly before 4 o'clock a.m. of that day, he sent the second mate aloft, who reported that he could just see a revolving light in that direction Not satisfied with this report, the Captain then put on all sail and headed his course as he supposed for Amherst Rock. At 9.30 a.m. the vessel struck 12 miles N. W. of Shaweishan. The crew were rescued by the *Irene* (Capt. Johns) with only the loss of one man and were brought to Shanghai from Shaweishan by the *Haean* (Capt. Wallace). Both of these Captains showed the helpfulness and kindness which is so characteristic of seafaring men. It appears that both mates mistook the occulting light at Shaweishan for the revolving light at the North Saddles, an error the more natural as both are white lights and as it was in exactly the position relative to the ship in which the latter would be according to the dead reckoning. We find that the Captain of the *Carrier Dove* used all reasonable caution to ascertain the ship's position and cannot be blamed for the stranding of the vessel.

JOHN GOODNOW,
Consul-General, U.S.A., Shanghai.
J. A. AMESBURY,
Master Am. Ship *Roanoke*.

27th July, 1903.

NOTES FROM THE NEW TERRITORY.

3rd August.

The heat has been great during the past four days. As high a temperature as 95 was recorded on the frontier.

The *lichee* crop has been an exceptionally good one this year all over San On, including the New Territory. Pineapples are being exported in immense quantities from the Shamchun and Lee Long districts, and are shipped in junks at Shamchun for the Canton and Hongkong markets.

Lance-Sergeant (4) Lenehan has been transferred from San Tin Police Station to the Central, *vice* L.-S. (56) Wilson, from Central to San Tin.

Bad characters living on the Frontier are always a source of trouble to the New Territory police. Recently the Nam Tau magistrate, Chan Leong Kit (a Manchu), who has always been more or less friendly to the British Government, made an official raid on a number of the villages along the Frontier, in Chinese territory, and arrested a large number of these bad characters, who were taken to Nam Tau and disposed of according to their deserts.

6th August.

On the north side of the Shamchun River, in Chinese territory, there is a village called Chik Mi, which lately has been the scene of much disturbance. The Chik Mi villagers held certain fishing rights in the river. Recently they sold these rights to a well-known Chinese woman who runs a launch from Hongkong, the price paid amounting in all to some $300 This transaction did not meet with the favour of the villagers of Sheung Po, Kak Tin and Taikoktsia, situated higher up the stream. They objected on the ground that the new lessee might impose restrictions on the boats passing through the waters which she had leased. Accordingly they armed themselves and descended upon the people of Chik Mi to give them battle. The Chik Mi villagers were by no means disconcerted by the attack. They dug trenches around their township, put up barricades and sand-bag defences, and made every preparation to repel the assailants. A fight ensued, and it would seem that the Chik Mi villagers made the better appearance, chasing the others and appropriating loot of various kinds from their villages. The Customs authorities sent word of the affair to the Nam Tau Magistrate and he came down with a lot of his soldiers. At present there are 125 braves stationed at Kak Tin and 25 at Sheung Po, all billeted at the expense of the Chik Mi people, who have been ordered to pay $250 compensation to the three other villages and also to pay to them the purchase-money they received for their river rights. Such measures are nothing if not drastic.

Mr. J. S. Chubb has taken over the charge of Shamchun Custom Station in place of Mr. W. P. M. Whaite, transferred to Shataukok, *vice* Mr. Olsen.

U.S. NAVAL GUNNERY.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

Chefoo, 27th July.

RECORD-BREAKING.

The United States flagship *Wisconsin* has just returned from three days' target-practice at sea. Her wonderful record is as follows: twenty-three hits, out of thirty-one shots. Target, twenty by seventeen feet in size; speed of ship, twelve knots per hour; distance from target, two thousand yards. This beats the world's record of large guns for all Navies; no ship in the British Navy, the former champion of the world, made such shots with guns of thirteen-inch calibre. This was accomplished while the ship was speeding along at twelve knots per hour, and in less time than half an hour, with guns the diameter of whose bore is the enormous size of thirteen inches. These facts impress the gunnery expert as more than marvellous. It was simply paralysing to all who saw it.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 5th August.

KWANGSI OPERATIONS.

From Kwangsi it is reported that the Imperial troops are not meeting with success, but no great operations have been entered on as yet. The Viceroy is biding his time, and will not move until he is fully prepared. General Fung is expected at Wuchow in the course of this week, and he will take with him from Yumchow (Chinchow) a large body of troops.

From the North eight regiments will arrive in Canton to-morrow. They belong to the Wu Chien Ch'un—probably the best body of troops in China, at least as far as discipline is concerned. A Hupeh general is in command, and many of the officers have been trained by foreigners at Nanking or Hankow. When these troops reach Kwangsi the Viceroy may be expected to commence the campaign in earnest.

ATTACKS ON VICEROY SHUM.

Rumours are being circulated by Shum's enemies which are intended to discredit him, but little attention need be paid to them. His maligners say that the Viceroy has denuded Canton of money and troops. One million and a half taels have been requisitioned for Kwangsi, and native banks and merchants are feeling the effects. The money market has suffered to such an extent that interest is charged at the rate of 12 per cent. on short loans. Again, Canton is reported to be exposed to great danger from any stray bands of brigands or even malcontents in the city. Of the five regiments of armed police, three have been sent to Kwangsi, and the number of troops is gradually dwindling. Members of the Triad Society are pouring into the city by tens daily. So say the gossips, but as a matter of fact Canton is very quiet now. One hears little or nothing of the burglaries and highway robberies which were of almost daily occurrence last year. The attempts to discredit the great Viceroy are ridiculous.

OFFICIALS DEGRADED.

Marshal Su, whose degradation was recently reported, has now been thrown into prison by the Board of Punishments at Peking. His fate will be a warning to corrupt officials, and his punishment is just. In Canton, Taotai Liu Ch'ing Tai has been degraded from his post of Superintendent of the Arsenal. The munitions of war sent to Kwangsi from the Arsenal are not of a satisfactory character, and the responsibility rests with the Superintendent, who has been replaced by a Taotai in whom the Viceroy trusts.

FOOCHOW.

The following items are from the *Foochow Echo* of the 25th ult.:—

The news conveyed in a letter from Kucheng early in the month about a man-eating tiger being about in that district has had the effect of bringing down three sportsmen from Shanghai bent on bagging the noble beast, and it is to be hoped that they will be successful. They arrived per *Haean* on Tuesday and started up the river the same evening for Kucheng.

The growing rice in the extensive plain between the city and the Kushan range was reported in our last issue to be looking healthy and well and this was correct as far as appearances went. There is an abundance of good long straw, but the harvesting reveals a very disappointing state of affairs as regards the gain, inasmuch as little more than half of an average yield is being obtained.

The head of the gang of thieves caught last week was allowed to escape in course of being removed from one prison to another, fully proving that whatever progress is being made in other directions reform among the police has not yet set in. However, the same audacious rogue was caught again while on another attempt at robbery in broad daylight, and will, it is hoped, be properly taken care of this time. This re-arrest has led to the discovery of the whereabouts of all the stolen property which will be returned to the owners.

Tea.—Business in Congou this week has been restricted to 8,500 half-chests, owing probably to the paucity of the stock on offer. The stock is only 16,480 half chests against 67,736 half-chests last year. Oolongs are neglected and the accumulated stock of this tea stands at 64,890 half-chests against 2,000 half-chests at the same date last year. The Export to Europe is 6,263,546 lbs. which is a little under that of last year to the same date.

There has been a good deal of talk lately about cultivating silk in the neighbourhood and there is no apparent reason for its not being one of the industries of the province. The argument that if there had been the slightest chance of success with it we should have had it with us as a trade long ago, may or may not be good. Nobody seems to know whether it has ever been tried.

CHINKIANG.

Chinkiang, 29th July.

RIOT—STEAM LAUNCHES DESTROYED.

Steam launches are just now receiving serious, even revengeful attention from the country people in the vicinity of Kwachou, the river entrance to the northern portion of the Grand Canal, only a few miles above Chinkiang. The country people have been joined by the boat people of Yangchow, the trading centre a few miles up the Canal, and by the rowdies from the whole district. Previous to the 27th inst. the country people near Kwachou or at least so it was at first reported, had several times thrown stones at passing launches, they claiming that the wash of the launches had broken down the banks of the canal and caused their fields to be flooded. On the 27th inst., at a place called Sin Chiaho, a crowd of people set fire to a passenger-boat which stopped there, hardly giving the passengers time to get ashore, and refusing to allow them to land their luggage The rioters refused to listen either to the boat people or the pleading passengers.

TROUBLE AT YANGCHOW.

During the afternoon of the same day a crowd, said to number about 3,000 persons, proceeded to the landing place at Yangchow, and destroyed the launch offices and jetties there, both those owned by the Launch Companies and those leased only. Not satisfied with this revenge, the mob next turned its attention to the launches coming up, and destroyed two completely, and badly damaged three others.

OFFICIALS NEGLIGENT.

During this outbreak, which lasted several hours, the local officials are reported to have taken no steps to interfere to protect the

property, although between 200 and 300 soldiers, with their officers, are stationed near the scene, and many of them were seen looking on while the mob was doing its will.

OWNERSHIP OF THE LAUNCHES.

One of the launches destroyed was owned by an American merchant in Chinkiang, and the other by the Chinese Launch Co. Two of the damaged launches were chartered by the merchant mentioned above, who is of course liable for their repair, the other damaged running under his flag also. The rioters did not seem to care whether the property they destroyed was Chinese or foreign-owned, their hostility being toward the launches as such, not because they were foreign innovations.

THE CAUSE OF THE FLOODS.

Last autumn the foreigner interested in these launches handed the Chinese officials concerned a considerable sum towards the repair of the banks of the canal in the neighbourhood of this disturbance, although he did not think there was much need of repair. But the officials, Chinese like, considered it unnecessary to expend this or any sum at that time, and no attempt was made to strengthen the banks. But with the rise of the river during the early summer some little work was commenced, and recently the Taotai issued an order that launches would not be allowed to clear during the high water then existing. On the 27th inst., however, the Commissioner of Customs at Chinkiang, under whose jurisdiction the launches are, gave permission for any launches at Kwachou to run to Yangchow and on to Tsinkiangfoo, the head of this navigation. This the rioters were evidently determined should not be allowed, with the result recorded.

COMPONENTS OF THE MOBS.

From all accounts—from native sources of course—the mob was composed of country people, whose fields were flooded or threatened, boat people, always inimical to the launches, which they fear will stop their trade, and the inevitable rowdy, always ready to take a hand in any *fracas*, in the hope of loot. The possibilities of such a combination are evident to every one.

MEASURES FOR REDRESS.

The Consuls at Chinkiang were at once notified, and they have called upon the Chinese officials to punish the rioters. At the same time efforts are being made to have the U.S.S. *Elcano*, now somewhere on the river, return to Chinkiang and possibly visit the scene. Its moral value about the mouth of the canal would be very great.—*Mercury.*

HONAN.

Luohokeo, Honan, 14th July.

TROUBLE BREWING.

Last night a letter dated Hsingan, July 6th, arrived stating that the situation was getting worse. My correspondent says: "We are very military in look at least just now; we have a guard of soldiers front and back, day and night; we bless them for the noise they make at night. The people are in a panic both here and all the country around. Soldiers have arrived from Shih-tsuen, Hanchang, and some reached us from Hsianfu to-day, under a Taotai with cannons. Fighting has begun and lives have been lost on the very spot where I bought my timber from a short time ago. The officials would like us to move away either by boat or into the city. I should rather run by boat. Our boys and enquirers stay away, and one of our servants has left. Food is very dear." From the above you see the situation is getting worse. Here we have had placards on the street saying that on the 6th moon, 3rd day (26th July) the people are to destroy the foreigners and burn all the places. In large letters the placards have "Support the dynasty and exterminate the foreigners!" The officials here are on the look-out, so I trust that nothing will happen. There is a good deal of dissatisfaction amongst the poorer class and a lot of secret society men are about, so it would not take much to kindle a fire.

OTHER SIGNS.

The Roman Catholics had some trouble at Pinlihsien, in Hsingan district. Some of the natives were killed, also two soldiers, and after doing that the mob went to the city and told the magistrate that he would have to become their leader or they would kill him. As he had no way out of it he agreed, but later on took gold and killed himself. The rebels number several thousand and have taken possession of the city of Pinlihsien. Here the people are greatly excited about it, but the officials are on the alert—*Mercury.*

GREAT FLOOD AT CHEFOO.

Chefoo, 27th July.

Yesterday, Sunday, the 26th July, will long remain a memorable day in the minds of residents here. At intervals through Saturday night it had rained hard at times, and on Sunday morn about all it seemed that things were waking up for a final effort. Peal after peal of thunder, interspersed with vivid flashes of forked lightning, made the scene a lurid one, while the wind blew from one quarter to another as if seeking for the best point to blow from, and then, although on the town level it was raining as hard as anyone can imagine it possible, somewhere up in the hills at the back of the town there must have been a cloudburst or some such disturbance, for the volumes of water which came tumbling down the already full flowing creeks and gullies overspread the banks in many places and carried away houses, trees, buildings of all sorts, many unfortunate Chinese, and, sweeping all before it, rushed seaward, only to be stopped by the incoming nearly high tide, which caused the rushing water to flood all low-lying parts of the settlement from two to three feet deep. So sudden was the rise of the water and so little contemplated the occurrence that no one had time to do much, stores being flooded, and extensive damage occurring in many godowns to goods stored on the ground tier.

FOREIGN LOSSES.

Some of the principal sufferers amongst foreign firms are Carlowitz and Co; Cornabe Eckford and Co.; Curtis Bros.; Diedrichsen, Jebsen and Co, and E. L. Mondon. Such goods as cement, straw-braid, flour, soda-casks, paper, etc., being damaged. The most extensive loss to individual property is probably that of the Chang Yue Wine Company, as all their work of the last three years, surrounding the Austrian Consulate, suffered very heavily, buildings, walls, and coal being swept away, and it is believed the valuable wines stored in the cellars will be ruined.

DESCRIPTION BY AN EYE WITNESS.

A foreign resident on Temple Hill states that the scene was awful as from that position they could see vast volumes of water tumbling down the hill, carrying houses, mules, and individuals as it swept seaward. It is at present impossible to estimate the loss of life, but the distress of those who are left homeless and destitute is very apparent. Some idea of the force of the water may be gathered from the fact, that at one point where some 400 tons of Welsh coal was stacked belonging to E. L. Mondon, Ld, the whole lot was swept into the sea. The beach is still strewn with beams, trees, logs, and all sorts of wreckage, and although some thirty bodies (Chinese) have already been removed, more are still appearing on the East Beach, and the loss of life on the West Beach, where the dwellers are much more packed, must be awful. The Customs authorities already say 200 to 300 have been drowned and probably the real total will never be known. Such a disaster locally is unprecedented and one can only hope that the like will never occur again.—*Mercury.*

A telegram to the *Mainichi* dated Seoul, July 27th, says:—The Japanese, who went to Manpachin, where two Japanese were recently assaulted by Chinese in Russian employ, reports that Yogiotao on the Yalu was the scene of the outrage. The men who committed the assault are not mounted bandits as reported at the time, but officials connected with a Chinese timber company, which was controlled by a Chinese Government official. The two Japanese who were assaulted were placed in custody by these Chinese and tortured. The Japanese on reaching the place demanded the delivery of these men and effected their release after considerable difficulty. Taotai Yuan is reluctant to admit that an official under his control took part in the affair and is working hard to effect an amicable settlement.

CORRESPONDENCE.

IMPERIAL SERVICE COLLEGE TRUST.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

5, Knaresboro' Place,
S.W., 4th July, 1903.

SIR,—For some time past a scheme for providing efficient, and at the same time, inexpensive public school education for the sons of naval and military officers (including colonial officers) and of members of our civil services, has been under the anxious consideration of an influential committee, of which I have been asked to act as Chairman. There is at the present moment no large public school wholly devoted to the benefit of those services. It is proposed to supply this need by the foundation of an Imperial Service College, the maximum inclusive fees of which shall never exceed £81 per annum; and in which, by sufficient endowments, a liberal provision can be made for those boys whose parent, or parents, could not afford even to pay this moderate amount. Distressing cases of need are common, more especially in the families of deceased officers; and the South African War has left many a widow with but too scanty means for providing her children with such an education as will enable them to make their way in the world. The education to be given in the Imperial Service College is intended to be of a thoroughly practical character; and a special feature will be a "Colonial Side," in which boys will be prepared for practical pursuits in various parts of the empire.

The creation of such a school must necessarily be beset with enormous difficulties. Land may be bought, buildings may be erected, but the birth of a living school, in full working order, with wholesome spirit and good tradition, is not the work of a day, nor is it solely a matter of money. This difficulty has been met by an arrangement which has been made with the United Services College, whose existent organisation is on the exact lines desired. It is efficient, inexpensive, reserves the rights of its foundation for the sons of service officers, and has an exceptionally efficient headmaster and trained staff of undermasters. It is, however, inconveniently located; and can accommodate but a limited number of boys. The intention is to instal this College in buildings of sufficient capacity, on a well-chosen site within 100 miles of London, capable of accommodating 500 boys, with the requisite staff. The cost of building, equipping and endowing such a school has been carefully calculated; and the scheme is now ready for the precise and economical application of funds for its full accomplishment. I am sanguine enough to believe that the scheme will meet with hearty approval. Detailed information as to plans, estimates, organisation, etc., etc, will be supplied on application to Colonel A. M. Delavoye, C.B. (late Assistant Military Secretary for Education), Penrhyn Lodge, East Twickenham. The Hon. Treasurer is Colonel Sir Reginald Hennell, D.S.O., 1, Whitehall Gardens; and any funds received will be placed under the Trusteeship of the Duke of Westminster, Admiral Sir E. R. Fremantle, G.C.B., and myself.—Yours, etc,

CHELMSFORD,
Chairman, Imperial Service College Trust.

THE WATER SUPPLY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 1st August.

SIR,—It is very painful to note that recapitulated by H. E. Sir William Gascoigne at the Legislative Council yesterday, such an eminent man as Mr. Chadwick, on whose report and recommendation the cursed separate system of drainage was introduced in this Colony and subsequently the plague, should make such a glaring statement as to mislead others to believe the Chinese to be a race of water-wasters. Can he substantiate his statement and publish statistics to show how often Chinese were convicted of this crime? Far from that they were taught in their cradles to appreciate the precious fluid, "To think of its origin when drinking water." According to the monthly tables published by the Water Authority the

average consumption in the city is about 9 gallons per head. The Government should take into consideration the great quantity used by all kinds of trade, thereby reducing the actual domestic consumption to about 7 gallons per head, which is not excessive. I contend Europeans use more water than Chinese as 9 gallons would barely suffice for one European bath alone. The New Water Bill is now before the Council: I hope the two Chinese representatives may watch the interests of their compatriots more closely. Thanking you for insertion of this in your paper.—Yours, etc.,

SANSANG.

THE NEW PUBLIC HEALTH AND BUILDINGS ORDINANCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 6th August.

SIR,—Regarding this vexed cubicle question, there is one point that I should like to have cleared up. The fiat has gone forth under the new Ordinance that landlords are to remove all illegal cubicles on their premises. That seems simple enough, but my question is this: Suppose a tenant rents a house from a landlord and erects a cubicle of his own, a *private* cubicle: has the landlord or anyone appointed by him power to remove that cubicle against the will of the tenant? It seems to me that he has not, and that any attempt to remove it could and would be met by a summons for trespass and damage. It seems to me also to be rather an important point, and it is one that troubles others besides.—Yours, etc.,

CUBICLE.

HONGKONG, CANTON AND MACAO STEAM-BOAT CO., LD.

HALF-YEARLY MEETING.

The 74th ordinary half-yearly meeting of the Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steam-boat Co., Ld., was held on the 4th inst. in the offices of the Company, 18, Bank Buildings. Hon. C. W. Dickson (chairman) presided, and there were also present Messrs. F. A. Gomes, N. A. Siebs, E. Goetz, C. Michelau, H. E. Tomkins, Hon. R. Shewan, and Mr. H. Schubart (directors), Messrs. J. Arnold, J. H. Jessen, E. J. Moses, Captain W. E. Clark, Hon. Gershom Stewart, Messrs. A. H. M. Silva, A. G. Ward, F. A. Wendt, S. Wilson, and J. Goosmann (acting secretary).

The ACTING SECRETARY having read the notice calling the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen,—I propose with your approval to take the report and accounts as read. They are, I think, put before you in such a form as to clearly show the present position of the Company. An improved result has attended the running of our West River steamers, and upon the Hongkong-Canton line our earnings notwithstanding lower rates have grossed practically the same figure as the previous half-year, but on the Hongkong-Macao line earnings have fallen off considerably owing to our having to compete with two steamers which are running in opposition at very unremunerative rates. It is not politic that I should make more detailed reference to this matter here, beyond assuring you that it has the close attention of your directors. Increased pay to those in the service, the disbursements of our extra steamer the *Kinshan*, and heavier expenditure on the *Honam* and *Powan* in order to put them into first-class order, all contributed to the reduction in our net revenue as compared with the previous six months. Notwithstanding the reduced profit your directors decided to recommend maintaining the usual dividend of 10 per cent. for the half-year, and I trust you will approve not only of this but also of their recommendations with regard to the disposal of the remaining balance. Although the amount carried forward to the current half-year is not so large as usual, yet it represents over 2 per cent. on capital. It has appeared to your directors advisable to provide further tonnage for the West River trade, and they have joined with the China Navigation and Indo-China Companies in acquiring the steamer *Kwong Hing*—renamed *Tok Hing*—to run between Canton and Wuchow in conjunction with the *Nanning* and *Sainam* until such time as a new steamer contracted for with the Hongkong & Whampoa Dock Company is completed, and the question of again taking up the trade between this Colony and the West River is also under consideration. Turning to the balance sheet, there does not appear to me any item which I need specially comment upon, but I may state that the Company's investments stand on a perfectly sound basis, at an expense of $11,600 taken from investment fluctuation account. Before proposing the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be pleased to answer any question relating to them which may suggest themselves to you.

There were no questions.

The CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. WENDT seconded and the motion was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN move the confirmation of the election to the directorate of Messrs. H. Schubart, E. R. Fuhrmann and H. E. Tomkins.

Mr. MOSES seconded and the motion was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN moved the re-election of Hon. R. Shewan and Mr. E. Goetz as directors.

Mr. WARD seconded and the motion was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN moved the re-election of Messrs. A. O'D. Gourdin and W. H. Potts as auditors.

Mr. MOSES seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

This was all the business.

WILLIAM POWELL, LD.

The second ordinary general meeting of the above Company was held on the 5th inst. in the premises, 28, Queen's Road Central. Mr. T. H. Reid (Chairman) presided and there were also present Messrs. W. C. Drew, G. Murray Bain, W. H. Gaskell, and R. G. Heckford (manager).

Mr. GASKELL having read the notice calling the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen,—As the report and statement of accounts have been in your hands for some time, with your permission we will take them as read. Your directors are pleased to be able to present such a satisfactory report on the past year's working of the Company. On turning to the accounts, you will observe that while recommending a dividend of ten per cent. for the year, we are able to make ample provision for writing off substantial sums for depreciation of stock, &c., and to carry forward to new account a sum of $4,757.42, this sum being a little in advance of the amount carried forward from the previous year's working. I should like to say with reference to the amount your directors propose to write off stock on hand—$7,000—that this amount is necessary in consequence of the depreciation of many articles in which we deal, owing to climatic influences, constant changes of fashion, and various other causes not immediately under our control. By making ample provision in this direction, we bring our stock on hand down to a low figure, strengthening our hands for the forthcoming winter season, and, at the same time, consolidating our largest asset. It is satisfactory to note that our net profit for the year is more than represented by our cash assets of some $30,000. A better proof, I venture to say, cannot be had of the soundness of any trading concern. With reference to our new premises in course of construction in Des Vœux Road, we hope to be in occupation in the early part of next year. There is nothing else to which we wish to direct your attention. If any further information is required, I will be pleased to answer any questions.

There were no questions.

The CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. BAIN seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

Mr. GASKELL moved the re-election as directors of Messrs. Reid and Drew.

Mr. BAIN seconded and the motion was agreed to.

Mr. BAIN moved the re-election of Mr. Gaskell as auditor.

Mr. DREW seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN stated that dividend warrants were ready and obtainable on application.

This was all the business.

UNITED ASBESTOS ORIENTAL AGENCY, LD.

The seventh ordinary annual meeting of shareholders in the above Company was held at the offices of the general managers, Messrs. Dodwell & Co., Ld., Queen's Buildings, on the 5th inst. Mr. E. S. Whealler (Chairman) presided, and the others present were Messrs. T. Skinner, A. Ritchie, J. D. Auld, J. W. C. Bonnar, E. G. Barrett, E. J. Libeaud, T. H. Reid, A. G. Ward, and G. R. Edwards (secretary).

The notice calling the meeting having been read,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen,—The report and accounts having been in your hands for some time, I will, with your permission, follow the usual course and take them as read. The profits this year are the largest we have been able to show, and beyond that I do not think there is much for me to say in connection with the accounts. We have written off $1,000 for the launch *Gladiator* and placed $6,000 to the reserve fund. We have done this more with the idea of the security of the Company and placing it on a very solid foundation. The dividend is somewhat larger than we have been able to pay in the past. Perhaps the most important thing in connection with a business of this sort is the stock. The stock we have taken great care to have thoroughly verified and properly valued, and we feel it is now in the books at a figure which, in the ordinary way of business, will be more than realised, so that we feel quite confident it is standing in the books at nothing more than its real value. I do not think there is anything more to say excepting that if there are any questions anybody would like to ask I shall be pleased to answer them before moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

There were no questions, and on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. BONNAR, who said great credit was due to the general managers for their conduct of affairs, the report and accounts as presented were adopted and passed.

The only other item of business was the election of an auditor, and on the motion of Mr. LIBEAUD, seconded by Mr. REID, Mr. W. H. Potts was re-elected at a fee of $100 per annum.

BELL'S ASBESTOS EASTERN AGENCY, LD.

The following is the eighth annual report of the above Agency:—

The directors herewith present to the shareholders the report and accounts, duly audited, to the 31st December, 1902, showing a profit of £401. 16s. 8d.

Of this sum the directors propose that an amount of £250 be set aside as amortisation on the debenture loan. This loan fell due in 1902, but has been renewed, at the same rate of interest, with a provision in the bond that the sum of £500 be paid off the capital amount on June 1st each year (the payment on June 1st, 1903, has been duly made), and that the Company surrenders its exclusive rights in Japan. They also recommend that the sum of £51. 16s. 8d. be set aside as reserve against bad and doubtful debts, and that the sum of £100 be carried forward to new account.

The expenses and damages caused by the launch accident at Hongkong, referred to in the last report, have been discharged.

The directors are glad to announce that the business at both branches made progress during last year, and that all assets have been written down to an exchange of 1s. 8d. per dollar.

Mr. Harry Russell Preston retires by rotation and, being eligible, offers himself for re-election.

Mr. John Cooper, the Company's auditor, also retires, and offers himself for re-election.

The following appointments have been made at the Admiralty:—Lieutenants.—H. Edwards, to the *Talbot* (1st); C. D. Carpendale, to the *Glory* (1st and G); J. A. S. Blackwood, to the *Tamar* for the *Handy*; C. E. M. Law, to the *Vengeance*; H. Leigh to the *Argonaut*; S. D. Blair to the *Cressy*, reappointed on promotion, to date June 30; F. L. M. Boothby and K. N. Humphreys to the *Bramble*, additional, to date June 30, on recommissioning, undated; A. B. Hughes to the *Spartiate* (N), lent, to date July 1.

REVIEW.

My Colonial Service. By Sir GEORGE WILLIAM DES VOEUX, G.C.M.G Two Volumes. London: John Murray.

THESE volumes have a rare charm of their own. Written with the object of giving the reading public an idea of the duties and responsibilities of a Colonial Governor, they tell the story of years of hard and earnest work in six different Crown Colonies and, for a short period, in Australia—a story full of interest, for it records how one of those zealous, courageous and justice-loving Englishmen who have made the Empire what it is fought the good fight in the face of difficulty, danger, and discouragement. But, as the pages of his book betray, the author is also a sportsman, a naturalist, and a shrewd observer of men and things, endowed with a keen sense of humour The more serious record of his official work is thus interspersed with anecdotes of men—some of the most distinguished of our times—and experiences by flood and field that lend to these volumes a peculiar fascination.

Sir William Des Vœux began his official career in British Guiana as a Magistrate. His account of life in the forest is of absorbing interest and seems to have had a special attraction for the author, for we find him later in his life longing to renew his acquaintance with these haunts of his younger days. Deer-shooting from a canoe was the principal sport that the forest offered. "I usually took with me two woodskins," says Sir William, "myself and an Indian in one and in the other two Indians and a dog. Arriving at what seemed a likely place, one of the Indians went ashore with the dog. With him he carried a horn made out of a hollow gourd, which when blown in these solitudes was audible for miles. From time to time he would thus indicate his whereabouts and so enable us to keep as near him as possible on the river. After we had paddled an hour or two following the direction of the sound, the horn, if we were to be lucky, would emit a different note, indicating that game had been found. Presently the barking of the dog would be heard, faintly at first, and becoming gradually louder as it approached the water for which the hunted deer invariably makes. Sometimes the sound would become suddenly very loud at a considerable distance up or down stream and then began a frantic paddling in order to reach the spot in time. The deer would then be seen entering the water, or sometimes only the splash would be heard and the animal would first become visible when actually swimming. The paddling would now become still more frantic until the deer was close to the other bank. A few seconds more and, unless stopped by a bullet, he would be safe in the forest, at all events for that day. Paddle is breathlessly exchanged for rifle and crack! crack! echoes over the water just as the quarry has topped the bank. Has the animal fallen or has he escaped?'

In his capacity of Magistrate the author was brought much into contact with the question of the treatment of indentured coolies on the plantations. He earned great unpopularity owing to his insisting on even-handed justice being done to these immigrants, a very large number of whom were Chinese. Subsequently a rising of the coolies took place which, coupled with representations that the author had made of the manner in which they were treated, led to an enquiry by a Royal Commission, whose report fully justified the author's indictment of the system. Great improvements in the method of dealing with immigrants, including increased supervision by Government, resulted not only in Guiana, but indirectly in other Colonies, and for his services to humanity in this instance alone the author deserves well of his countrymen.

In Saint Lucia Sir William had a difficult, laborious task in reducing to order an administration that was in a state of chaos. His early training for the Canadian Bar stood him in good stead in assisting a newly appointed Chief Justice in compiling a Civil Code, there being much uncertainty as to what the law of the Colony founded, as it was on French Law, really was. Here too, with that far-seeing judgment which these volumes show he possessed in a remarkable degree, the author devoted endless time and trouble to the introduction of the Central Factory System in order to counteract the effects of the policy of bounty upon the export of sugar pursued in the neighbouring French Colony and in other foreign countries. The enterprise was not financially a success to the Company which undertook it, owing to the rapid decline in price produced by the spread of the system of bounties on export over the whole Continent of Europe and the United States, but the factory itself is still working and with others of the same kind has been of great benefit to the Colony.

The pages devoted to Fiji are full of interest and give further evidence of that characteristic sympathy of the author with native races. The descriptions of Fijian ceremonial (which it is to be hoped the author's successors in office have been as punctilious in observing as was apparently Sir William Des Voeux) are most striking. Take for example the account of the funeral of the great Chief Thakombau:—

"In the old cannibal days the *loloku ni mate*, a term applied to anything done to show respect for the dead, would in the case of such a chief have included, among many other savage doings, the strangling of his widows, the amputation of their own finger-joints by his relations, etc. If there still lingered any native propensities in this direction I was naturally unable to gratify them. But one of the old customs I was able to adopt and so caused much satisfaction. As we approached Bau the long strips of black cloth which would always have appeared on a chief's approaching canoe, were, by Captain Burges Watson's permission, attached to the yard-arms of H.M.S. *Miranda*. As soon as these were seen a whole fleet of boats put out from Bau, and as they neared us the black streamers were released from the yard-arms and went floating away on the wind followed by an eager yelling and splashing crowd of swimmers, each of them anxious to secure for himself a much-prized memento of so great an occasion."

Space does not admit of the quotation of the whole passage, including a very effective and sympathetic funeral oration by the author.

In 1883 the author, as High Commissioner for the Western Pacific, visited Sydney in order to attend a Convention of the leading Statesmen of Australasia to discuss matters of common interest, including the reported intentions of Foreign Powers to make annexations in the Pacific. Sir William afterwards accepted an invitation to take a seat on the Convention and succeeded in convincing its members that immediate annexation or colonisation of the tropical islands of the Western Pacific was impolitic and undesirable. A resolution giving expression to this policy, while guarding against the acquisition of the islands by others, was passed by the Convention and has remained the policy ever since. At this Convention a Committee was formed, on which Sir William accepted a seat, to consider and report on the best means of instituting a Federal Australasian Council. This was the origin of the Federal Council which constituted an important step towards the complete federation of Australia—an Union with which Sir William had ever been in strong sympathy.

Space does not permit of us noticing the author's administration in Trinidad or Newfoundland—in the latter of which Colonies especially he found opportunity to do much valuable work. The last Colony he governed was Hongkong, which in these later years has grown to be one of the most important of all the Crown Colonies. His work in Hongkong seems to have been devoted to two dominating objects—one to facilitate expansion, the other to improve what with characteristic foresight he recognised as a dangerous sanitary condition. Thus he accomplished a vast and long-needed improvement in the lighting of the approaches to the Port of Hongkong by obtaining from the Chinese Government permission to build a lighthouse, 30 miles to the East of it, at Gap Rock, while he induced the Chinese Government themselves to establish another to the Westward at Waglan. By the reclamation of the Happy Valley much-needed space was afforded for the healthful recreation of all classes of the community; by the opening out of Kowloon by roads and formation of building sites the development of that growing district was fostered and accelerated; while by the Praya Reclamation a huge area was added in front of an overcrowded city, at its wit's ends to find space in which to carry on its increasing trade. Of the latter undertaking, in itself a stupendous work, Sir William writes: "This enterprise, though I devoted much labour to furthering it, and may claim some credit for securing general assent to it and the approval of the Secretary of State, I should be doing injustice if I did not largely attribute to Mr. (now Sir Paul) Chater, who not only devised it, but by his suggestions and his tactful dealing with objectors had the chief part in obtaining the unanimous adherence of the owners interested."

In the matter of legislation having for its object sanitary improvement, Hongkong is indebted to Sir William for the Buildings Ordinance, 1889, the Crown Lands Resumption Ordinance, and the European Reservation Ordinance.

We mentioned at the beginning of our article that Sir William had a keen sense of humour. The pages of his book are enlivened by many anecdotes, and he tells a good one of two former Governors of Hongkong. Sir William met Sir George Bowen and Sir John Pope Hennessy once at a dinner party in London. A remark by Sir George that he had an interview on the same day with the Pope, Victor Emmanuel, and Garibaldi fell flat. Shortly afterwards Sir George remarked in a loud voice, "Very extraordinary thing! Very extraordinary; I was asked to dine the same day with the Prime Minister and the Archbishop of Canterbury." Upon which little Pope Hennessy, who was sitting at the opposite side of the table, said, even louder, "A much more extraordinary thing has happened to me, Sir George"; and when asked what, replied, "I have been asked to dine neither with the Prime Minister, nor with the Archbishop of Canterbury."

We must now reluctantly leave these pages, which we commend to all sorts and conditions of readers, for their attraction is manifold.

POLO CLUB GYMKHANA AT THE HAPPY VALLEY.

On the 1st inst. a Gymkhana was held at the Racecourse, under the auspices of the Polo Club, and was attended by a measure of success which should encourage the promotion of such enjoyable meetings more frequently in future during the uncheered dog-days of a Hongkong summer. There was a large attendance of spectators, including many ladies, whose bright dresses lent charm to the scene. It was not a punter's day by any means, for there were too many races of the "fancy" kind figuring on the programme to suit his insatiable betting spirit; still the Pari-mutuel was fairly well run upon; while the varied character of the events on the card was a thing appreciated by the great majority of those present. Promptly at half-past three the first saddling bell rang, and thirty minutes later ten ponies took the field for the first race, the winner of which was found in Mr. Clarke's Snipe, owner up. The Pole, Ball, and Bucket Race was won by Mr. N. H. Rutherford on a pony whose somewhat unpretending pace gave him a little advantage over his opponents. Mr. Johnstone carried off the honours at tent-pegging. In the Waler Handicap, Legacy, Mirabel, School Girl and Golden Bell faced the starter. Mr. Gresson was up on the old Shanghai champion, Golden Bell, who went grandly and won easily from the field. Mr. Ross, Hon. Secretary, won the Ladies' Nomination; Mr. Lyon showed himself to be most expert at riding to time in the Go-as-you-please Race; and the Paper Obstacle and Straw Screen Race, in which three riders were thrown, fell to Mr. Johnstone.

Hon. C. W. Dickson officiated as judge, Captain Keller, D.S.O., as starter, and Mr. F. H. Lyon, R.N., as Clerk of the Scales; while the onerous duties of Hon. Secretary were carried out by Mr. C. H. Ross. The Committee was as follows:—Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G., Captain Nugent, R.A., Captain Carleton, Mr. F. H. Lyon, R.N., Mr. C. H. Ross, and Mr. G. K. Hall Brutton. In the course of the afternoon musical selections were given by the band of the 33rd Burmas. At the conclusion of the racing Mrs. May presented the prizes to the winners on the Grand

Stand, and was rewarded with three cheers and a "tiger." The Colonial Secretary then called for three cheers for the popular Hon. Sec., "who had got the whole show up," which compliment was heartily accorded.

Appended are the details :—

CHINA PONY RACE.—Weight for inches as per scale; 7 lbs. allowance for jockeys who have not won more than two flat races in China. Distance ¾ mile. Cup presented by Mr. H. E. R. Hunter.

Mr. W. G. Clarke's Snipe, 10st 2lbs (Owner) 1
Mr. H. Milward's Jigoku, 10st 9lbs (Owner) 2
Mr. P. H. Potts' Tube Rose, 11st 4lbs ... (Mr. Gresson) 3
Mrs. C. W. Dicks n's Digby Grand, 11st 1lb (Mr. J. Johnstone) 0
Mr. N. H. Rutherford's Hireling, 11st 1½lbs (Owner) 0
Mr. W. G. Clarke's Misfit, 10st 10½lbs ... (Mr. Thornhill) 0
Mr. H. P. Tooker's S. Patrick, 11st ... ... (Mr. May) 0
Mr. B. A. Craig's Unknown, 10st 13½lbs ... (Owner) 0
Mr. G. Mackie's Starling, 10st 8lbs ... ... (Mr. Mackie) 0
Mr. W. Inglis's Velvet, 11st 2lbs (Owner) 0

Tube Rose made the running until entering the straight, when Snipe coming forward in grand style ousted the leader and was two lengths ahead when passing the post. Jigoku beat Tube Rose by a neck for second place.

POLE, BALL, AND BUCKET RACE.—Competitors to start mounted, gallop past a pole, take off with one hand a ball placed on the top, throw the ball into a bucket placed further up the course, and so on for two more poles and buckets. Points—1 for each ball picked off a post, 2 for each ball thrown into the bucket and remaining there; 5 points to be deducted from any competitor who in the opinion of the judge, does not go at full speed.

Mr. N. H. Rutherford 1
Mr. J. Johnstone 2
Mr. F. H. Lyon 0
Major the Hon. H. W. Trefusis ... 0
Mr. G. Badham Thornhill 0
Mr. C. H. Ross 0
Mr. H. J. Gedge 0

After each competitor had had his essay, the Judge required Mr. Rutherford and Mr. Johnstone to have one more trial to decide upon their merits, and the palm was awarded to the former.

TENT-PEGGING.—Points—3 for a carry, 2 for a carry under 20 yards, 1 for a touch, 3 for style and pace. Each competitor allowed three runs if necessary. Cup presented by Mr. F. H. Lyon, R.N.

Mr. J. Johnstone 1
Major the Hon. H. W. Trefusis ... 0
Mr. C. H. Ross 0
Mr. E. R. Morriss 0
Mr. W. G. Clarke 0
Mr. G. Badham-Thornhill 0
Mr. H. J. Gedge 0

The final trial lay between the three first-named and resulted in a win for Mr. Johnstone.

WALER RACE, HANDICAP.—Distance mile. Cup presented by Mr. Victor H. Deacon.

Mr. W. J. Gresson's Golden Bell, 11st 10lbs (Owner) 1
Mr. Hart Buck's School Girl, 10st ... ... (Mr. Clarke) 2
Mr. Morgan Phillips's Legacy, 11st ... ... (Mr. Johnstone) 3
Mr. P. H. Potts's Mirabel, 9st 7lbs ... ... (Mr. Mackie) 0

School Girl was sent off in the lead followed by Legacy, Golden Bell and Mirabel tailing out Coming round past the Black Rock, Legacy took the lead, but in entering the straight she was challenged and beaten by Golden Bell, who won going easily by 1½ lengths. A good race for second place.

MARKET GARDEN RACE—LADIES' NOMINATION.—Gentlemen nominated by ladies. A long table placed on the Mud Course near the entrance from the paddock, behind which table the ladies stand; on the table a supply of vegetables of various kinds. Gentlemen provided with a small basket to which is attached a list of vegetables to be placed therein by lady. Start on Grass Course in front of Judge's box, ride up to flag and turn on to Mud Course (rails removed), ride up to table, dismount and hand lady basket; lady fills basket with vegetables as per list, hands it back to gentleman, who then remounts and rides back to starting post. First past post with contents of basket correct as per list wins. In returning the baskets to be carried by full length of handle and the basket mouth not to be closed.

Mr. C. H. Ross, nom. by	Mrs. Stedman,	1
Mr. J. Johnstone,	Miss Hawkesley,	0
Mr. E. R. Morriss,	Miss Gresson,	0
Mr. F. H. Lyon,	Mrs. Slade,	0
Mr. N. H. Rutherford,	Mrs. James,	0
Mr. H. Milward,	Miss Wylly,	0
Mr. G. Badham-Thornhill,	Mrs. James,	0
Hon. F. H. May,	Mrs. May,	0
Mr. H. J. Gedge,	Mrs. Gedge,	0
Mr. W. J. Gresson,	Mrs. C. Dickson,	0
Mr. B. A. Craig,		

GO-AS-YOU-PLEASE RACE. Start in front of Judge's box, and ride round course, the competitor finishing in exactly four minutes (or failing this the competitor finishing in nearest in this time) to win. No watches allowed.

Mr. F. H. Lyon, ... 1
Mr. W. G. Clarke, ... 0
Mr. J. Johnstone, ... 0
Mr. H. N. Rutherford, ... 0
Mr. W. Inglis, ... 0
Mr. G. Mackie, ... 0
Hon. F. H. May, ... 0
Mr. H. Milward, ... 0
Mr. W. J. Gresson, ... 0
Mr. E. R. Morriss, ... 0
Captain Keller, ... 0
Major the Hon. H. W. Trefusis, ... 0
Mr. G Badham-Thornhill, ... 0

Mr. Inglis was the first to pass the post. His pace brought him in 3min. 27sec. Mr. Lyon calculated the time and pace more accurately and took almost exactly 4min. to ride round the course.

PAPER OBSTACLE AND STRAW SCREEN RACE.—Two hurdles, one water jump, and straw screen. Distance about 300 yards. Start on Mud Course opposite Judge's box, turn on to Grass Course at flag (rails removed), and finish on Grass Course as usual.

Mr. J. Johnstone, ... 1
Mr. N. H. Rutherford, ... 0
Major the Hon. H. W. Trefusis, ... 0
Mr. W. G. Clarke, ... 0
Mr. G. Badham-Thornhill, ... 0
Hon. F. H. May, ... 0
Mr. H. J. Gedge, ... 0
Mr. W. J. Gresson, ... 0
Mr. B. A Craig, ... 0

Mr. Johnstone won easily. Messrs. Rutherford, Clarke, and Craig were all thrown at the paper obstacle, but no one was hurt.

A WARNING TO HONGKONG.

We quote the following extract from an article on Hongkong appearing in the *Times of India* and written, we presume, by the Editor of that journal who passed through on his way home *via* Siberia a couple of months ago :—

Finally—need it be said?—we heard grumbles about the rise in rents, and vague forebodings of the days when the rich Chinese would oust the Europeans from the possession of the Peak. To anyone who knows certain cities of India the forebodings are not vague at all; the handwriting was writ large upon the wall five years ago. Then few people in Hongkong would listen to the warnings of a casual stranger within their gates; now, it is almost a relief to find that they are growing a little apprehensives For the changes then predicted are coming to pass. The Chinese are growing rapidly in wealth and influence, and some of them delight to live in large houses and outvie the European. They have crept up slowly from the borders of the harbour, until they have acquired many of the houses in the fine terraces immediately above the business city. Soon few of these will remain to the Europeans, and then the Chinese will cast longing eyes at the fine villas on the cool heights of the Peak. They have plenty of money, and can outbid the Englishman, with his diminishing income, his costly trips to Europe, and too often his establishment in two countries at once. When the Chinese start to scale the Peak, they will go there with a rush; and thus it will come to pass that, serene in their lofty retreats, they will look down upon the unforeseeing English sweltering o' nights in the city that their forefathers squandered their lives to create, as the graves in the Happy Valley bear mute witness. It will be a sight for some Chinese Teufelsdrockh to moralise over, as he sits alone with the stars.

This is no fancy picture. Anyone who has lived in India with his eyes open, can see it coming in Hongkong. Already, one hears the Europeans—not those born in the colony, but those who have migrated thither with their wives and families—are in some instances living in one or two rooms in tenements in the midst of Chinese. Those with good incomes are finding it increasingly difficult to get houses in cool localities at reasonable rents; soon, if they do not take care, most of them will find themselves shouldered off the Peak altogether. It is all very well for Excellencies and Councillors and People's Tribunes to deblatterate—with one eye on the Colonial Office—fine sentiments about impartiality and Imperial magnanimity and so forth; but one who is not ashamed to be an Englishman first, in this matter of decent dwellings in our tropical possessions, thinks first of his own kith and kin. It is all very well for rich bankers and merchants on the verge of retirement to say "It will last our time"; but they should remember also those who will have to come after them. Hongkong is a British achievement. It was a desolate island when Great Britain acquired it. To reserve that portion of the island best suited for the residences of Europeans for their sole use, would involve no injustice to the Chinese. Hardly a single Chinese has invaded the Peak so far; and I have held, ever since I first saw Hongkong, that all land above a certain altitude should, for purposes of residence—not for ownership of property—be declared an European reservation. The arguments that the Peak is costly to live at, and that there are plenty of good dwelling-houses at Kowloon, do not affect the contention that the Peak should always be kept clear of Chinese. Nor, it may be urged, does the proposed European reservation in the New Territory—which the Colonial Office vetoed—modify materially what has been here set down. A large European quarter in the New Territory might be difficult to defend in an emergency; it would be more remote from the business centres than the Peak, and neither so cool nor so healthy.

Possibly this outburst may cause a smile here and there in Hongkong; but if it were not foredoomed to be forgotten in a day, I do not think it would be smiled at twenty years hence. Future English dwellers in Hongkong will wish that their predecessors had thought a little less about the Navy League, and a little more about themselves and their successors. When all the villas at the Peak are in the possession of rich Chinese, the English of Hongkong will arise and curse the apathy of their brethren who went before them.

It will then be too late. But—it is not too late now.

HONGKONG.

Capt. and Mrs. Arbuthnot sailed on the 31st ult. for Japan by the *Kamakura Maru*.

The chief engineer of the C.P.R. steamer *Empress of China*, which sailed on the 5th inst., had a pocket-book containing money and other property, to the total value of $500, stolen from his cabin on the 4th inst.

The visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum for the week ending 2nd August were 201 non-Chinese and 55 Chinese to the former and 46 non-Chinese and 1,450 Chinese to the latter institution.

We are glad to see that there are signs of a resuscitation of the Hongkong Philharmonic Society. All members and those wishing to join are asked to attend a meeting in the City Hall on Monday, at 5 p.m. In case the Music Room is not large enough to contain the meeting, the large hall will be requisitioned.

Reports which we have received from the New Territory state that the harvesting is in full swing, more than half of the first-half of the paddy crop having been cut and threshed. Ploughing and planting for the second crop are in progress. The farmers say that the first crop has been a good average. Peanuts are again a good crop this year.

The Hon. R. Shewan was a passenger by the *Empress of China*, which sailed on the 5th inst. for Vancouver. He goes home for about a year's holiday.

A coolie accidentally fell into the harbour from the Praya at West Point on the 31st ult., and was drowned. The body was recovered on the 2nd inst.

The funeral of two R.G.A. men—Bombr. Phillips (78th Co.) and Gunner Ashton (80th Co.) took place on the 1st inst. with military honours. Death in both cases, we are informed, was due to fever.

In the Hongkong Polo League competition on the 31st ult., at the V.R.C., the Volunteer representatives beat the Lusitano Club by two goals to *nil*. Lieut. Armstrong opened the scoring, and Loureiro added the second. This victory as good as declares the Volunteers winners of the Shield.

The Chinese cook on board the *Empress of China* was sentenced to two months' hard labour at the Police Court on the 31st ult. for stealing 83 catties of sugar from the steamer. Another Chinaman who was convicted of receiving the sugar, well knowing it to have been stolen, received a similar sentence.

From Manila on the 6th inst. Mr. Alec Middleton, business manager of the Pollard Comedy Company, received a wire stating that the season there had been extended till this week-end owing to the great success attending their productions. The opening in Hongkong has therefore had to be postponed from Monday next till the following Wednesday, the 12th inst., on which night *Tom, Dick and Harry* will be presented.

Kung Cheong, contractor, High Street, was fined $50 and $5 compensation at the Police Court on the 1st inst. for allowing a blast to be fired without taking proper precautions. He was preparing some land for a building between Plantation and Barker Roads, and fired a blast without giving proper warning. A Chinaman was passing at the time and a piece of stone descended through his umbrella and injured his side. The $5 compensation was for the damage done. Inspector Collett had charge of the case.

On the 1st inst. at Bay View Hotel Mr. W. S. Bailey was entertained to dinner and made the recipient of a gold medal with inscription (subscribed for by a number of sporting friends) on the occasion of his retirement from the ring, in which he has been a well-known figure for many years. Mr. W. Waters presided and made the presentation, which Mr. Bailey suitably acknowledged. Among those present were Messrs. E. O. Murphy, J. Christie, J. D. Logan, A. P. Goldwin and Mike Collins. The function was in every way successful. A company of about 30 sat down to dinner, which was served up in Mr. Collins's best style.

A meeting of Justices of the Peace was held at the Magistracy on the 4th inst. to consider an application from O. Fromowitz for the transfer of his publican's licence to sell and retail intoxicating liquors on the premises situated at No. 1, Jubilee Street under the sign of "Colonial Hotel" to one Annette Papier. Mr J. H. Kemp, Acting Police Magistrate, presided, and the other Justices present were Captain F. Lyons, Acting Captain Superintendent of Police; Mr. R. H. Craig, Assistant Superintendent of Victoria Goal; and Mr. C. D. Melbourne, Chief Clerk at the Magistracy. Mr. E. J. Grist, solicitor (Messrs. Wilkinson & Grist), appeared in support of the application, which was granted unanimously.

The ss. *Pembrokeshire*, on her way down here from Shanghai to be repaired, has put into Swatow to avoid the rough weather.

H.M. battleship *Albion* arrived from the north on the 4th inst.

On the 6th inst. the French gunboat *Decidee* arrived from Chefoo and the British sloop *Phœnix* from Batavia and Singapore.

H.M.S. *Bramble* arrived from Shanghai on Friday, having left that port on the 3rd inst.

Steamship captains arriving in Hongkong from the South report meeting a lot of wreckage outside. Presumably, it is from the sunken *Paul Doumer*.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The following British men-of-war were at Weihaiwei on the 25th ult:—H.M.S.S. *Glory, Ocean, Albion, Amiphitrite, Argonaut, Blenheim, Eclipse, Humber, Alacrity, Britomart, Mutine, Algerine, Handy, Janus*, and *Otter*.

The *Times* Shanghai correspondent writes:—In pursuance of Chang Chih-tung's advice, three small river gunboats will be built in Japan for the Nan-yang fleet similar to the one now under construction. It is intended that these shall take the place of the vessels condemned last year. Such expenditure, though under existing conditions it can serve no good purpose, is apparently necessary in order to maintain the dignity of the Viceroys.

With regard to piracy on the Upper West River, Mr. Acting Consul Fox writes in his report on the trade of Wuchow in 1902:—"No serious cases of piracy—this term has been objected to, but it conveniently describes the robbery with violence so common on the Upper River—have been reported during the year on the Wuchow-Canton route, but on the Upper River, beyond Kueihsien, the movement of merchandise has been continually impeded by the bands of brigands who infest the waterways and trade-routes. Cargo-boats are obliged to travel in flotillas, and a most unsatisfactory system of military convoy has grown up; the charges for this, often very inadequate being borne by the boat-people and, indirectly, by the goods."

Capt. Robt. A Binns, of the s.s. *Siam*, which arrived at Singapore from Shanghai on the 25th ult., reports that at 7 a.m. on the 22nd ult., while in Lat. 8 deg. 45 N. and Long. 106 deg. 52 E., he discovered a raft made of bamboo adrift with two men on it. The chief officer, Mr. R. F. Kernan, lowered a boat and picked them up. They were in a very exhausted condition, but revived on being administered restoratives. The men seemed to be fishermen and were landed at Pulo Condore, a French penal settlement, on the arrival there of the vessel. The French authorities informed the Captain that the men were escaped convicts and that they would be shot the next morning! The Captain was thanked and the native crew rewarded with money.

The *Ostasiatische Lloyd* says:—Some time ago we published the statement that during his interim administration of office in Nanking after the death of Liu Kung-yi, H.E. Chang Chih-tung ordered river gunboats for service on the Yangtsze from Japan. Tenders from European dockyards were also received, but not accepted by Chang Chih tung, who of late is strongly leaning towards Japan. We now learn that the order was for four gunboats, which has been placed with the Kawasaki works in Kobe. The dimensions of the boats are to be: length 184, beam 28, depth from keel to upper deck 13.5 feet and they are to draw 7 feet. The displacement has been calculated at 525 tons. Engines of 950 horse-power are to give the vessels a speed of 13 knots per hour.

The *Kobe Chronicle* says of the late Mr. David Jackson, Yokohama manager of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, who died of an aneurism of the heart on the 27th ult.:—Mr. Jackson was in the prime of life, being only about fifty years of age. His career in the East dates from 1878. He commenced, as most of the employees do, in the London office of the Bank. Thence he was removed to Shanghai, and served there for many years. Mr. Jackson was afterwards appointed agent at Hankow, and later in a similar capacity at Bombay, where he stayed for several years. After a brief furlough at home Mr. Jackson came, about 1899, we believe, to Yokohama, where he has since been the Bank's manager for Japan. Only a short time ago, Mr. Jackson was honoured by the Emperor with the Insignia of the Fourth Class of the Imperial Japanese Order of the Rising Sun in recognition of his services in connection with the flotation of the last Japanese loan in London. The deceased gentleman leaves a widow, but had no children. Mr. Jackson was a brother of Sir Thomas Jackson, whose successful career in connection with the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank is so well known.

The directors of the Taku Tug and Lighter Co., Ld., have declared an interim dividend of one tael per share.

The Federal Conference at Kuala Lumpur opened on the 19th ult. with the reception of H. E. the High Commissioner (Sir Frank Swettenham) at the railway station.

A Nagasaki despatch states that an American resident of the port committed suicide by placing himself before a train at Michio station on the Kinshiu Railway on the 25th ult.

A correspondent sends us the following list of the names of the Sultan of Jolo's wives:—Scent-of-Lilies, Heart's-Desire, Honey-of-Life, Dancing-Sunbeam, Blush-of-Morning, Oasis-in-the-Desert, Moon-upon-the-Waters, Song-of-Nightingales, Whisper-of-the-West-Wind, and Rose-in Bloom.

When it was reported recently that a "Russian" had actually visited Lhassa, no little surprise was expressed at an European getting through after so long a period of exclusion. However, it seems that M. Zybikoff, notwithstanding his name, is not a native of European Russia, but a Buddhistic Buriat of the Baikal region: his stay in Lhassa cannot, therefore, be claimed as breaking the long series of failures registered against European travellers since the days of Huc and Gabet.

On the way down from Weihaiwei, H.M.S. *Albion* ran into a typhoon, and was badly knocked about. It is stated that the delay occasioned resulted in the supply of fresh water running completely out, and that owing to damage to the distilling plant it was impossible to renew the supply. The crew had to be battened down, and only those whose services were needed were allowed on deck; several men fainted with the stifling heat below, and all were glad when the battleship emerged from the storm, which was perhaps the worst she has encountered.

Relations between the French and Chinese in the Foochow Arsenal are sharpening to a point more and more. For a long time past the French have upheld a claim on the Foochow Arsenal which, taken in round figures, amounts to 700,000 taels. During the peace negotiations in 1901 the French Ambassador brought up this claim and succeeded in getting the same included in the indemnification to be paid to France. This however did not afterwards have the effect that the French considered their claim settled; the French representative in Foochow still insists upon payment of this sum, and when he met with just and energetic resistance from the Chinese seized the Arsenal. But it is known this Arsenal engages to a great extent in all possible work within the province of shipbuilding which in other countries is left to private enterprise. The Chinese central government has lately arrived at the only possible conclusion and ordered that the Arsenal be treated as a private enterprise, which means that in future import duty is to be paid for all raw material imported for the Arsenal, the same as other private dockyards in China have to do.—*Ostasiatische Lloyd.*

The *Bangkok Times* says:—We are informed that steps are at last being taken to deal with cattle diseases in the interior. Owing to the death from rinderpest of large numbers of buffaloes all over the country, much hardship is imposed on the agricultural community, who are absolutely dependent on these animals in the cultivation of rice. It has now been determined to try to fight the disease on lines similar to that followed in the Philippines, by separating and quarantining infected animals and by the use of prophylactic serum. The Hospital Department, which is taking up this work, will get the serum from abroad and if possible make it here, using meantime the emergency treatment in the case of any herd which has been attacked by the disease. This treatment consists of inoculating the balance of the herd with bile from the liver of those having the disease. It is proposed that the work shall be carried on through the existing agencies for the distribution of medicine in the interior. We may add that Mr. Davis and Mr. Washburn, who are here from the Philippines to try to buy cattle, have given valuable information to the Government as to the methods adopted there for the prevention of the disease.

The Hon. E. H Conger, U. S. Minister to Peking, has recently paid a visit to Newchwang.

Mr. Andrew Burt, M. Inst., M. E. (China), has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Colonial Institute.

The annual review of the trade of India shows China to be India's second best customer. The export distribution figures show China's percentage to be 12.6; Japan's 4.6.

A Japanese has been arrested in Shanghai for changing one-rouble notes which were counterfeit. Altogether the police have obtained possession of 164 of these notes.

The *P. & T. Times* says that there was very nearly a repetition of the *Camperdown-Victoria* disaster outside Weihaiwei early in July. The British Fleet was outside manœuvring when the *Cressy* scraped the "Admiral's Walk" on the stern of the flagship.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place in India, between Captain T. G. Peacocke, A.V.D. Remount Department, India, eldest son of the late Mr. John Peacocke, of Limerick, and Zoë, youngest daughter of the late Mr. Robert Crawford McMurdo, of Hongkong.

A telegram from Chefoo in the *Shanghai Mercury* dated the 26th ult. says that owing to torrential rains the district has been flooded. There has been heavy loss of native lives, and considerable damage has been done to several godowns. Many offices are under water, and great damage has been done to property.

General Kuropatkin, in laying the foundation of a Port Arthur Cathedral, is reported in a telegram sent to London to have said that Port Arthur was becoming inaccessible to all enemies, no matter how numerous or whence they came. The General seems to have chosen a strange occasion for making the declaration.

A Penang report has it, says the *Straits Times*, that Mr. G. T. Hare, C.M.G., the Secretary for Chinese Affairs for the Federated Malay States, will shortly proceed to China to carry out a mission entrusted to him by the F. M. S. Government to encourage Chinese immigration for the purpose of opening up an agricultural settlement in the States.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Jelebu Mining and Trading Co., Ld., was held at the offices of Messrs. Syme and Co., Singapore, at noon, on the 28th ult. Mr. W. M. Sime occupied the chair and there were present Messrs. Nathan, McNeil, Romenij, Downie, and about half a dozen others. Proceedings were very brief and it was decided to take all necessary steps for the liquidation of the concern without delay.

The report of the Perak Public Works Department for last year says that the annually recurrent expenditure under the main heading of roads, streets, and bridges amounted to some $467,000. In maintenance of Public Buildings $111,000 odd were spent, and a sum of $703,000 went on works and buildings, special services, the total expenditure of the department exceeding $1,707,000. The expenditure under the head of water supply and irrigation amounted to over $333,000.

Writing from Peking on the 30th June, Dr. Morrison says:—The general body of opinion here considers that China, far from deserving charitable treatment [on the indemnity question], never deserved it less. She has not attempted to reform or to put her finances in order, though the wealth of the country is enormous and its possibilities are infinite. Corruption is as great as ever, and the money squandered by the Court in Peking would pay twice the amount involved in paying the indemnity in gold instead of in silver.

A list was published officially the other day of the Siamese students in Europe, says the *Bangkok Times*. It gives, however, only those who have been sent by or in connection with the Ministry of Public Instruction, and who are under the inspectorship of Mr. J. Algernon Brown. There are 27 in England, one in France and one in Russia. Those in England are classified as "special" (14), "scholarship" (8), and students in training for teachers (5). About half of them are Mom Chaos. In addition students are also sent to Europe by the Army and the Ministry of Justice.

Recently the U. S. army transport *Logan* arrived at Nagasaki, the vessel having left Manila on the 15th July. When it became sufficiently noised about Nagasaki, says the *Shanghai Times*, that the United States transport had made its appearance in the harbour there was a general scurrying around in the ranks of the "double-cross sports" and "sure-thing men" who have lately been infesting that port in goodly number, and there was a wild endeavour to find seclusion. It was understood that the *Logan's* officers had orders to ... all undesirable characters now living at the Japanese city to distant fields, and thereby assist in clearing the moral atmosphere to some extent.

The largest vessel ever built in the Philippine Islands was launched on the 27th ult. from the yards of the San Nicholas Iron Works into the Pasig River before a large concourse of people, among whom were Governor Taft and the members of the Philippine Commission who are at present in Manila. The name of the new vessel is *J. Rodriguez*, the same being the name of the builder who bears the distinction of being the pioneer shipbuilder of the Philippine Islands. Miss Helen Taft, the 12-years-old daughter of the Governor, broke the bottle over the bow and christened the vessel. She did this very gracefully and was loudly applauded by those present. The new vessel is a steamer of 74[illegible] tons burden. She was constructed in the main by Filipino labour. She is a twin screw vessel having all the up-to-date improvements, including electric lights. She will engage in the coastwise trade.

COMMERCIAL.

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 7th August.—No arrivals.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG 7th August.—There is a slight advance in the prices.

Shekloong,	No. 1, White	$8.50	to	$8.55	pcl.
Do.	„ 2, White	7.75	to	7.80	„
Shekloong,	No. 1, Brown	5.15	to	5.20	„
Do.	„ 2, Brown	5.00	to	5.05	„
Swatow,	No. 1, White	8.40	to	8.4[illegible]	„
Do.	„ 1, White	7.65	to	7.7[illegible]	„
Do.	„ 1, Brown	5.10	to	5.15	„
Do.	„ 2, Brown	4.95	to	5.00	„
Foochow Sugar Candy		12.70	to	12.75	„
Shekloong „		10.90	to	10.95	„

RICE.

HONGKONG 7th August.—There is no change in the position of the market.

Saigon, Ordinary	$3.90	to	3.95
„ Round, Good quality	5.40	to	5.45
„ Long	5.50	to	5.55
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	4.05	to	4.10
„ Garden, „ No. 1	4.60	to	4.65
„ White,	5.45	to	5.50
„ Fine Cargo	5.60	to	5.65

Messrs. W. G. Hale & Co., of Saigon write, under date July 31st:—"Our market has steadily improved during the month owing to renewed activity for the Philippines, China and Japan. Arrivals of Paddy are falling off largely and stocks existing in the Interior are said to be low and held in strong hands. Millers, owing to the uncertainty of filling their Paddy requirements decline forward contracts. Rains have been more frequent and heavy of late, and field work is now in full swing.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per P. & O. steamer *Coromandel*, sailed on 1st August. For London: 174 bales raw silk, 8 cases silks, 556 packages Amoy tea, 5 cases hair, 2 cases bird feathers, 10 cases sundries. For Lyons:—210 bales raw silk. For Marseilles:—186 bales raw silk. For London and Manchester:—15 bales waste silk. For Manchester:—150 bales waste silk. For Gibraltar:—2 cases silk. For Milan:—30 bales raw silk. For Barcelona:—100 rolls matting.

Per P. & O. steamer *Japan*, sailed on 7th August. For London:—7,771 boxes tea, 200 cases bulbs, 61 cases chinaware, 55 cases woodware, 220 rolls mats

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 30th July.—Amongst the sales reported during the week are the following:—

				per bale	
Bombay—Nos.	10	to	20, ...	$ 90.00	to $128.00
English—Nos.	16	to	24, ...	114.00	to 120.00
„	22	to	24, ...	120.00	to 128.00
„	28	to	32, ...	136.00	to 142.00
„	38	to	42, ...	155.00	to 170.00
COTTON PIECE GOODS—				per piece	
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.				2.30	to 2.40
7 lbs.				2.50	to 2.80
8.4 lbs.				3.50	to 4.25
9 to 10 lbs.				4.30	to 5.50
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.				2.90	to 3.25
58 to 60 „				3.50	to 4.00
64 to 66 „				4.25	to 5.75
Fine				6.00	to 8.50
Book-folds				5.00	to 8.00
Victoria Lawns—12 yards				0.85	to 1.75
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y				2.30	to 2.80
7lbs. (32 „), „				2.50	to 3.00
6lbs. (32 „), Moxs.				2.50	to 3.00
7lbs. (32 „), „				3.10	to 3.30
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.)				3.30	to 4.05
Drills, English—40 yds., 13¼ to 14 lbs.				4.75	to 7.30
FANCY COTTONS—					
Turkey Red Shirtings—1¼ to 8 lbs.				1.70	to 6.00
Brocades—Dyed				—	to —
DAMASKS—				per yard	
Chintzes—Assorted				0.09	to 0.15
Velvets—Black, 22 in				0.27	to 0.65
Velveteens—18 in.				0.17½	to 0.23
				per dozen	
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk				0.25	to 5.00
WOOLLENS—				per yard	
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.				0.75	to 2.25
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths				1.25	to 3.00
				per piece	
Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-10 lbs.				6.95	to 9.75
Assorted				7.10	to 9.90
Camlets—Assorted				12.50	to 33.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches Assorted				12.50	to 21.00
Orleans—Plain				9.50	to —
				per pair	
Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.				0.60	to 1.75
Fine quality				1.60	to 2.50
METALS—				per picul	
Iron—Nail Rod				4.50	to —
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.)				4.55	to —
Swedish Bar				4.55	to —
Small Round Rod				4.90	to —
Hoop ⅜ to 11/2 in.				6.40	to —
Wire, 16/25				0.00	to —
Wire Rope, Old				3.20	to —
Lead, L.B. & Co. and Hole Chop				8.00	to —
Australian				8.30	to —
Yellow M'tal—Muntz 14/20 oz.				41.50	to —
Vivian's 14/20 oz.				41.50	to —
Elliot's 14/20 oz.				41.50	to —
Composition Nails				61.00	to —
Japan Copper, Slabs				39.00	to —
Tin				77.50	to —
				box. per	
Tin-Plates				7.40	to —
				per cwt. cas	
Steel ¼ to ⅜				6.75	to —
SUNDRIES—				per picul	
Quicksilver				173.50	to —
				per box	
Window Glass				5.00	to —

SHANGHAI, 31st July (from Messrs. Noë, Murray & Co. Piece Goods Trade Report).—Our market has remained in practically the same condition as it was when we last wrote on 23rd instant. A few sales from stock are reported to have been made but the quantities are small and consist for the most part of goods that are specially required. Apart from these the business of the week has been confined to the auctions where prices on the whole are rather better, but this can in a way be accounted for by the fact that the quantities offered are smaller than usual. Clearances are still poor and seem likely to remain so until the political horizon becomes clearer, for although Native interest is down to a normal rate the trade cannot get any facilities from the Native banks who are holding what funds they have until things are more settled. There is another instalment of the indemnity to be paid soon and this also tends to render them all the more unwilling to make any advances. It is reported that the financial difficulties in Tientsin have been satisfactorily settled, but as far as we know this lacks confirmation and as far as this market is concerned there has been no improvement. Owing to political unrest the New-

chwang merchants are doing nothing and it is rumoured that the godown of one of the largest merchants there has been destroyed by fire. There is nothing doing for Chefoo which has been quite upset for the time being by heavy rains and floods which have caused a great loss of lives and serious damage to godowns and cargoes. The River markets remain quiet. The Manchester market is reported flat with production diminishing fast. Here and there we hear of a few sales having been made, evidently from stock, for this market and apparently let go at a small profit. The Liverpool market is quiet with American Cotton quoted 6.54d. and Egyptian Cotton 9½d. The export from England] for the fortnight ending 25th instant was fifteen million yards. The British and Chinese Government ratified the Sheng-Mackay-Dudgeon Treaty on 28th instant.

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 7th August 1903.—We have no business to report from the date of our last bricular until after the August Monday holiday, since when a fair general business has been transacted notwithstanding the further rise in sterling exchange and consequent continued, and even accentuated, tightness of money.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghais have declined to $675 without business, although as mentioned in our last report buyers would be plentiful if financing the stock was easier. Nationals continue in demand at $27 to $27½, but very few shares are forthcoming at that rate.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have been placed at $500, China Traders at $61½, and Cantons at $180. In North-China and Yangtszes there is no local business to report.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs continue quiet with small sales at $327½, while Chinas have found buyers at $87½, closing with buyers at $87.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macaos, after small sales at $37 ex div. paid on 4th inst., close with a few shares offering at that rate. Indo-Chinas have ruled very dull, the price declining to $92 with little or no business to report. China Manilas are enquired for in a small way at $20. Douglases have ruled neglected at $41. Star Ferries have found buyers at $27½ for old and $17½ for new shares. Shell Transports have been dealt in to some extent at 24s., 23s. 6d., and 23s., closing with sellers at 23s. 6d.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars continue steady to strong at $95 after an important sales at that rate and at $94. Luzons unchanged and without business.

MINING.—No business or change to report under this heading.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks came into request immediately after the settlements, and a demand at $212 and $213 being not met, the rate quickly rose to $215, at which last rate a fair number of shares changed hands; later, the demand continuing, $216 was paid and after a fair business at that the market closes firm with buyers. Hongkong Wharf and Godowns have been placed in small lots at $88 and continue in demand at that rate. New Amoy Docks unchanged and without business. Farnhams are quoted in Shanghai at $157½.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have ruled rather firmer with buyers and no sellers at $155 to $156, and a small unsatisfied demand forward at equivalent rate. Hotels have improved to $154 after sales at $152 and $153, closing with sellers. West Points unchanged and without business. Humphrey's Estates have declined to $11.90 with sellers after small sales at $12. Oriente Hotels could be placed at $50.

COTTON MILLS.—No change or business to report.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands have ruled rather easier and are obtainable at $24. Watsons have been dealt in at $14½ and $14¼, closing with buyers at the latter rate. Ices are wanted in small lots at $250 while larger lots are procurable at that rate. China Providents have changed hands at $9.60 and $9.50.

MEETINGS.—Hongkong and Shanghai Bank Ordinary half-yearly general meeting on 15th inst; books now closed. H.K. and W. Dock Co., Ld., ordinary half-yearly meeting on 24th inst.; transfer books close on 10th inst. Extraordinary general meeting Humphrey's Estate and Finance Co., Ld., on 31st October, for increasing the capital of the Company.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai ..	$125	$675 L'don, £64. 10s.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	£8	$27½, buyers
B. Shares	£8	$27½, buyers
Foun. Shares...	£1	$10
Bell's Asbestos E. A...	£1	$6,
Campbell, Moore & Co.	$10	$40, sellers
China-Borneo Co., Ld.	$12	$15, sellers
China Light & Power Co., Ld.	$20	$6¾
China Prov. L. & M.	$10	$9½
China Sugar	$100	$95, buyers
Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra Limited.	$500	230, buyers
Philippine Tobacco Trust. Co., Ld.	$50	$18
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 36, sales
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 40, sellers
Laou Kung Mow ...	Tls. 100	Tls. 40, buyers
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 160.
Hongkong	$100	$15, buyers
Dairy Farm	$6	$12
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	$25	$47½,
Green Island Cement.	$10	$24, buyers
H. & C. Bakery	$50	$40, buyers
Hongkong & C. Gas...	£10	$140, buyers
Hongkong Electric	$10 $5	$12 75. $7, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways...	$100	$326
Hk. Steam Water boat Co., Ld.	$10	$14¾ buyers
Hongkong Hotel	$50	$154
Hongkong Ice.	$25	$250
H. & K. Wharf & G....	$50	$88, buyers
Hongkong Rope.....	$50	$145, sales
H. & W. Dock	$50	216, buyers
Insurance—		
Canton.....	$50	$180, sales
China Fire	$20	$87, buyers
China Traders'.....	$25	$61½, sales & buyers
Hongkong Fire.....	$50	$327½
North China.....	£25	Tls. 230
Straits	$20	$1, buyers
Union	$100	$497½, buyers
Yangtsze.....	$60	$135, sellers
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	$100	$155, buyers
Humphreys Estate.	$10	$12, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	$30	$38, sellers
West Point Building	$50	$50½
Luzon Sugar.....	$100	$10, buyers
Manila Invest. Co., Ld.	$50	$15, buyers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	$60, sellers
Jelebu	$5	$1¾, sellers
Punjom	$11	$2
Do. Preference...	$1	30 cents, buyers
Raubs.....	18/10	$8½, buyers
New Amoy Dock	$63	$37½, buyers
Oriente Hotel, Manila	$50	$50, buyers
Powell, Ld.....	$10	$9, ex div.,
Robinson Piano Co., Ld.	$50	50
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila...	$50 $55	$20, sales $15, sales
Douglas Steamship	$50	$41 ex div.,
H., Canton and M..	$15	$37, sales & sellers
Indo-China S. N. ...	£10	$92, sellers
Shel Transport and Trading Co.....	£1	£1. 3. 6. sellers
Star Ferry.....	$10 $5	$27½, buyers $18, sellers
S. C. F. Boyd & Co., Ld.	Tls. 100	Tls. 157½, sales
Tebrau Planting Co....	$5	nominal
United Abestos.....	$4	$9.10, ex div,
Do.....	$10	$220, ex div., buy.
Universal Trading Co., Ld	$5	$23, buyers
Watkins Ld.....	$10	7, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S....	$10	$14¼, sellers ✓

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

SHANGHAI, 31st July (from Messrs. J P. Bisset & Co.'s Report). The principal business done in the market during the week under review has been in S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co. shares, and we have also a fair business to report in Langkats at somewhat erratic rates. The market towards the Settlement, which took place yesterday, strengthened owing to shorts covering their forward sales. The July Settlement has passed off satisfactorily. BANKS.—H. and S. Banks.—The market is steady with buyers at $680; the London quotation is £64. INSURANCE.—There is no business to report locally either in Marine or Fire Insurance. SHIPPING.—Indos. A fair business is reported in these during the week. The market opened on the 24th with sales for the July Settlement at 69¼/70, 68 September, and 70½ December. On the 25th Tls. 70 July; 27th 68 July, 69 December, 28th 68/67½ July, 69 December. On the 29th, 67 cash, 70½/69 December. On 30th 68 for cash. The market closes quiet at the latter rate. Shanghai Tug Boats have been placed at Tls. 300, and Cargos, at Tls. 180. DOCKS AND WHARVES.—S. C. Farnham, Boyd and Co.—The market opened on the 24th with sales for the July Settlement at Tls. 157½, 165 September and 167½. On the 25th cash shares were placed at 157½, and July shares at 158½. On the 27th cash and July shares were placed at 157½ and 158½. On the 29th cash shares were placed at 157½ with Settlement shares at 157½ 60 August 159, November 166½. December 167½. On the 29th a considerable business was done in cash shares, the rates ruling from 157½, 159, 16 and 170 December. On the 30th September shares were placed at 163, 162½, 165 October 167½/169 December. Hongkong and Whampoa Docks unchanged, quoted nominally $215. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves have weakened and our quottaion of Tls. 282½ is purely nominal. IN SUGAR COMPANY.—No business reported. MINING.—The only business reported is in Kaipings at Tls. 6½, and Weihaiwei Golds $20 p.u. at $21. There are sellers of $15 p.u. at $15.7. LANDS.—Shanghais are quoted Tls. 105 buyers. Hongkong Lands quoted nominal at $106, and Humphreys are wanted at $12. INDUSTRIAL.—Cotton Stocks The only business reported in these is a transaction in Low kung Mows at Tls. 40. Flours (old) have been placed at Tls. 66½ and Majors at Tls, 40. Shanghai Gas shares have been placed at Tls. 112½, shares are obtainable at this rate. Langkats. The market opened on the 24th with sales for September at Tls. 305, 310 October. On the 25th July Settlement shares were placed at Tls. 297½ and September 307½; October 312½/315. On the 27th July Settlement shares were placed at 297½ 300 and for September 310/317½; 315 October and 313 December. On the 28th July Settlement at 295/292½, 310/305 September, 315/310 October. On the 29th cash shares were placed at 297½/300, and on the 30th cash 300, 302½ and 305, with 310 for September. The market closes nominal at 305. Sumatras have been placed at Tls. 54, 55 and 56. We notice a strenthening in the market. STORES & HOTELS.—Hall and Holtz have been placed at $34; Hotel des Colonies Tls. 16, and Astors at $29. DEBENTURES.—Nothing doing.

EXCHANGE.

SATURDAY, 8th August.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/9½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/9 9/16
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/9⅝
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/9¾
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/9⅞
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/10
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	225
Credits 4 months' sight	229
ON GERMANY—	
On demand	183
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	43⅛
Credits, 60 days' sight	44⅛
ON BOMBAY.—Telegraphic Transfer	134
Bank, on demand	134¼
ON CALCUTTA.—Telegraphic Transfer	134
Bank, on demand	134¼
ON SHANGHAI.—Bank, at sight	72⅞
Private, 30 days' sight	73¾
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	87
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	nominal
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	nominal
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	107⅝
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	1½ p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	1 p.c.pm.
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	60
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	$11.20
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	59.10
BAR SILVER, per oz.	25⅛

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR ANTWERP.—*Kintuck, Nestor, Agamemnon, Glaucus, Sanuki Maru, Tydeus, Hakata Maru, Pak Ling.*

FOR LONDON.—*Japan, Bengal, Kintuck, Nestor, Pak Ling, Glaucus, Sanuki Maru, Tydeus, Merionethshire, Hakata Maru, Agamemnon.*

FOR LIVERPOOL.—*Pingsuey, Tydens, Jason.*

FOR MARSEILLES.—*Kintuck, Nestor, Yarra, Agmemnon, Glaucus, Sanuki Maru, Tydeus, Hakata Maru, Pak Ling.*

FOR BREMEN.—*Sachsen.*

FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—*Sithonia, Badenia, Konigsberg, Andalusia, Abessinia.*

FOR ODESSA.—*Edouard Bary.*

FOR TRIESTE.—*M. Bacquehem.*

FOR NEW YORK.—*Arabia: Baron, Driesen.*

FOR PORTLAND (OR.).—*Indrapura.*

FOR VICTORIA, B.C.—*Pleiades, Iyo Maru, Ningchow.*

FOR VANCOUVER.—*Empress of India, Athenian.*

FOR AUSTRALIAN PORTS.—*Tsinan, Kasaga Maru, Empire.*

FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG AND CALCUTTA.—*Gregory Apcar.*

FOR BOMBAY, VIA SINGAPORE AND COLOMBO.—*Kagoshima Maru.*

FOR BOMBAY, VIA SINGAPORE AND PENANG.—*Capri.*

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

July— ARRIVALS.

31, Anping Maru, Jap. str., from Coast Ports.
31, Ayr, British str., from Karatsu.
31, Dott, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
31, Firth of Beanly, Brit. str., from Hamburg.
31, Glenfalloch, British str., from Singapore.
31, Kwangtah, Chinese str., from Canton.
31, Lyeemoon, German str., from Canton.
31, Progress, German str., from Touranc.
31, Valetta, British str., from Bombay.

August—

1, Huron, British str., from Moji.
1, Karin, Swedish str., from Chefoo.
1, Lawada, British str., from Rangoon.
1, Rajaburi, German str., from Bangkok.
1, Triglao, Austrian str., from Tourane.
2, Ariake Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
2, Benclcuch, British str., from London.
2, Carl Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Hoihow.
2, Chingwo, British str., from S. Francisco.
2, Hailoong, British str., from Swatow.
2, Hangsang, British str., from Shanghai.
2, Wongkoi, German str., from Bangkok.
3, Capri, Italian str., from Bombay.
3, Gregory Apcar, Brit. str., from Calcutta.
3, Hue, French str., from Haiphong.
3, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
3, Nankin, British str., from Bombay.
3, Rinaldo, British sloop, from Singapore.
3, Stentor, British str., from Shanghai.
4, Albion, British battleship, from W'haiwei.
4, Bombay Maru, Japanese str., from Bombay.
4, Comet, British ship, from New York.
4, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
4, Holstein, German str., from Saigon.
4, Kiautschou, German str., from Hamburg.
4, Loongmoon, German str., from Shanghai.
4, Quarta, German str., from Canton.
4, Singan, British str., from Canton.
5, Hongkong Maru, Jap. str., from S. F'cisco.
5, Loongsang, British str., from Manila
5, Loyal, German str., from Hongay.
5, Taishan, British str., from Bangkok.
5, Tientsin, British str., from Wuhu.
5, Victoria, Swedish str., from Saigon.
6, Bramble, British gunboat, from Shanghai.
6, Dagmar, German str., from Swatow.
6, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
6, Decidee, French gunboat, from Chefoo.
6, Foochow, British str., from Wuhu.
6, Hailoong, British str., from Swatow.
6, Japan, British str., from Yokohama.
6, Nanchang, British str., from Chefeo.
6, Phœnix, British sloop, from Batavia.
6, Prosper, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
6, Sanuki Maru, Jap. str., from Yokohama.
6, Sumatra, British str., from London.
6, Toonan, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
6, Tsurugisan Maru, Jap. str., from K'notzu.
7, Changchow, British str., from N'chwang.
7, Hangsang, British str., from Canton.
7, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
7, Hong Bee, British str., from Straits.
7, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Canton.
7, Phrapang, German str., from Bangkok.
7, Rosetta Maru, Japanese str., from Manila.
7, Tsinan, British str., from Kobe
7, Waihara, British str., from Straits.
8, Koun Maru, Japanese str., from Kobe.
8, Kwongsang, British str., from Shanghai.
8, Sishan, British str., from Saigon.
8, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.

July— DEPARTURES.

31, Anna, Norwegian str., for Kobe.
31, Choysang, British str., for Shanghai.
31, Daigi Maru, Japanese str., for Tamsui.
31, Hailoong, British str., for Swatow.
31, Kamakura MARU, Japanese str., for Kobe.
31, Michael Jebsen, German str., for Hoihow.
31, Ulabrand, Norwegian str., for Moji.
31, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.

August—

1, Chowfa, German str., for Swatow.
1, Coromandel, British str., for Europe.
1, Ho hao, French str., for Hoihow.
1, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
1, Hongmoh, British str., for Amoy.
1, Kwangtan, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
1, Kweiyang, British str., for Tientsin.
1, Perla, British str., for Iloilo.
1, Rubi, British str., for Manila.
1, San Joaquim, American str., for Manila.
1, Tailee, German str., for Swatow.
1, Tyr, Norwegian str., for Hongay.
1, Valetta, British str., for Shanghai.
1, Victoria, American str., for Tacoma.
1, Wuchang, British str., for Iloilo.
2, Anping Maru, Jap. str., for Coast Ports.
2, Ayr, British str., for Kutchinotzu.
2, Chiyo Maru, Japanese str., for Takao
2, Chunsang, British str., for Samarang.
2, Clara Jebsen, German str., for Hongay.
2, Emma Luyken, German str., for Swatow.
2, Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.
2, Kampot, French str., for Swatow.
2, Lena, Norwegian str., for Kobe.
2, Lyeemoon, German str., for Shanghai.
2, Triglao, Austrian str., for Canton.
3, Firth of Beanly, British str., for P. Arthur.
3, Huron, British str., for Moji.
3, Kingsing, British str., for Kobe.
3, Tientsin, British str., for Kobe.
4, Borneo, German str., for Sandakan.
4, Dott, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
4, Else, German str., for Saigon.
4, Gaelic, British str., for San Francisco.
4, Glenfalloch, British str., for Amoy.
4, Hailoong, British str., for Swatow.
4, Hangsang, British str., for Canton.
4, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Canton.
4, Namsang, British str., for Calcutta.
4, Singan, British str., for Swatow.
5, Ariake Maru, Jap. str., for Kutchinotzu.
5, Carl Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihow.
5, Empress of China, Brit. str., for V'couver
5, Kiautschou, German str., for Shanghai.
5, Progress, German str., for Touron.
5, Stentor, British str., for London.
6, Benledi, British str., for London.
6, Bombay Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
6, Chowtai, German str., for Bangkok.
6, Hue, French str., for Kwangchauwan.
6, Nankin, British str., for Kobe.
6, Prinz Heinrich, German str., for Europe.
6, Rajaburi German str., for Swatow.
6, Toonan, Chinese str., for Canton.
6, Triglao, Austrian str., for Touron.
7, Hailoong, British str., for Swatow.
7, Japan, British str., for London.
7, Karin, Swedish str., for Newchwang.
8, Hangsang British str., for Shanghai.
8, Hunan, British str. for Manila.
8, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
8, Prince Albert, Norw. ship, for Manila.
8, Rosetta Maru, Japanese str., for Manila.
8, Sanuki Maru, Japanese str., for London.
8, Vengeance, Brit. battleship, for W'haiwei.
8, Wongkoi, German str., for Swatow.
8, Wuhu, British str., for Ningpo.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Coromandel*, for Hongkong, from Shanghai, Captain Madame Favre, Messrs. S. B. Addison, Enna Aage, McGeorge and Bastien; for Singapore, Misses F. Adelaide and A. Adelaide; for Bombay, Major Cleveland; for London, Messrs. J. Smedley and A. M. Grant: for Singapore, from Yokohama, Mr. Hawley.

Per *Valetta*, from London, &c., Mr. and Mrs. Witcombe, Mrs. and Miss Stevens; Mr. and Mrs. Searle, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Moore, Lieut. Cooper, Messrs. F. Julian, J. Lee, H. T. Edminston, H. J. Burniston and J. Bundally and Miss Ledcock.

Per *Kiautschou*, for Hongkong, from Hamburg, Messrs. H. Paun, J. H. Tonnesen, Joh. Aas and Matthiesen; from Southampton, Messrs. W. S. Galbreath and J. W. Bark; from Genoa, Messrs. John W. Jones and Julius Danielsen; from Aden, Messrs. Joeton, Chanton and Loule-g; from Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. G. Busch and Major Eicke; from Singapore, Messrs. L. Swartjes, G. Th. F. van der Voors and Takada.

Per *Hongkong Maru*, from San Francisco, &c., Mrs. W. P. Baker and child, Mrs. H. A. Bordner, Mrs. S. La Grave, Mrs Giles, Mrs. A. J. Gough, Mr. and Mrs. L. Asen, Mrs. Wheate and infant, Dr. and Mrs. E. A. R. Laing, Mr. and Mrs. Basil Taylor, Baron B. von Szilley, Misses F. B. Adams, K. Ghibetich, E. Moore, M. Hall, S. Hoffman, J. McCarthy, G. D. McGrew G. Robinson and J. M. Shea, Master F. Kindley, Messrs. T. S. Barnes, W. L. Bowler, Wm. Brenan, W. A. Brown, J. J. Carrington, Guy Clinton, J. A. Cull, Wills Dean, F. E. Eagan, Jno. Eagan, E. S. Erving, T. L. Freeman, P. C. Giles, A. D. Gough, W. G. Hunter, A. C. B. Jacobson, J. W. Johnson, Jno. Lakeness, T. B. Law, J. F. Martin, J. W. Mason, E. Loureiro, P. H. Quinn, C. A Reynolds, B. K. Soul, E. P. Sheehan, C. H. Simpson, K. Nakayama, W. A. Northrup and R. Fuhrmann.

Per *Prinz Heinrich*, from Yokohama, &c., for Hongkong, Mrs. F. E. Griffith, Mr. and Mrs. Baldwin, Miss Baldwin, Misses Johnstone and Ed. Sinnott, Messrs. A. G. F. Somerville, W. Brehmer, G. T. Poole, Mitchell, F. Kellner, H. M. H. Nemazel, Schellhoss, A. Weinberg, W. C. Kibby and Vitrat. In transit—Miss E. Mehlis, Dr. Lauwer, Major Kreate, Mr. Ch. Duc and family, Messrs. F. Voss, Thos. Setter, L. Kubli, Oscar Batt and Wm. Fuller.

Per *Sumatra*, for Hongkong, from London, Messrs. A. G. Potter, L. Broughall, E. H. Smyth, J. E. A. Rees and Chief Art. J. Mitchell; from Malta, Lieut. A. Dymock; from Penang, H.E. Sir E. Satow: for Shanghai, from Shanghai, from London, Mr. R. McDonald.

DEPARTED.

Per *Coromandel*, from Hongkong, for Singapore, Messrs. H. Hirschler, S. Hirschler and Ray; for London, Mrs Lamble, Sergt. and Mrs. F. Artiugstool and two children: from Shanghai, for Singapore, Misses F. and A. Adelaide and Mr. Hauley; for Bombay, Major Cleveland; for London, Messrs. J. Smedley and A. M. Grant.

Per *Gaelic*, for Shanghai, Messrs. H. J. Burniston, F. S. Brockman, W. J. Southam and P. Klepsch; for Kobe, Mr. H. F. Ostrander; for Yokohama, Mr. H. F. Edmiston; for San Francisco, Mr. T. G. Nicklin; for London, Dr. R. Pick and Mr. W. Searle.

Per *Empress of China*, for Vancouver, &c., Mr. and Msr. Hy. Southall, Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Bateson Wright, Mrs. Ottomi, Miss H. Lewis, Hon. Robert Shewan, Major E. C. Eicke, Judge W. W. Foster, Capt. Cours, Lieut. L. B. Kramer, Messrs. W. M. Richards, C. S. Moody, J. L. Hess, W. Pitts, V. A. C. Hawkins, K. Tatsumi, G. Thornhill, C. E. Le Munyon, C. L. Gorham, R. Campbell Davidson, T. B. Deacon, B. James, Hart Buck, P. C. Clemson, Victor Kritz, Carl Remington, W. G. Clarke, Martin Eagan and Francisco Ycasiano.

Per *Kiautschou*, from Hongkong, for Shanghai, Miss C. Noronha, Messrs. J. Machado, J. Thun, H. Bell, T. Hjart, Meeths and L. Swartjes; for Nagasaki, Mr. F. Hyski; for Yokohama, Mrs. Schellhass, Mrs. Becker, Mrs. G. Harling and daughter, Miss Scheppelmann and Mr. G. P. Rawstron.

Per *Prinz Heinrich*, from Hongkong, for Singapore, Messrs. W. Brehmer, Olavesen and Engelbretzen; for Colombo, Mr. S. Weinberg; Naples, Mr. W. T. Kibby; for Genoa, Messrs. T. Kellner and J. Helms; for London, Mrs. Crombie and child, Dr. W. O. Lambert, Capt. Hansen, Messrs. F. Allen, G. Olsen, Chr. Olsen and Skag; for Bremen, Mr. H. Ostendorf.

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